

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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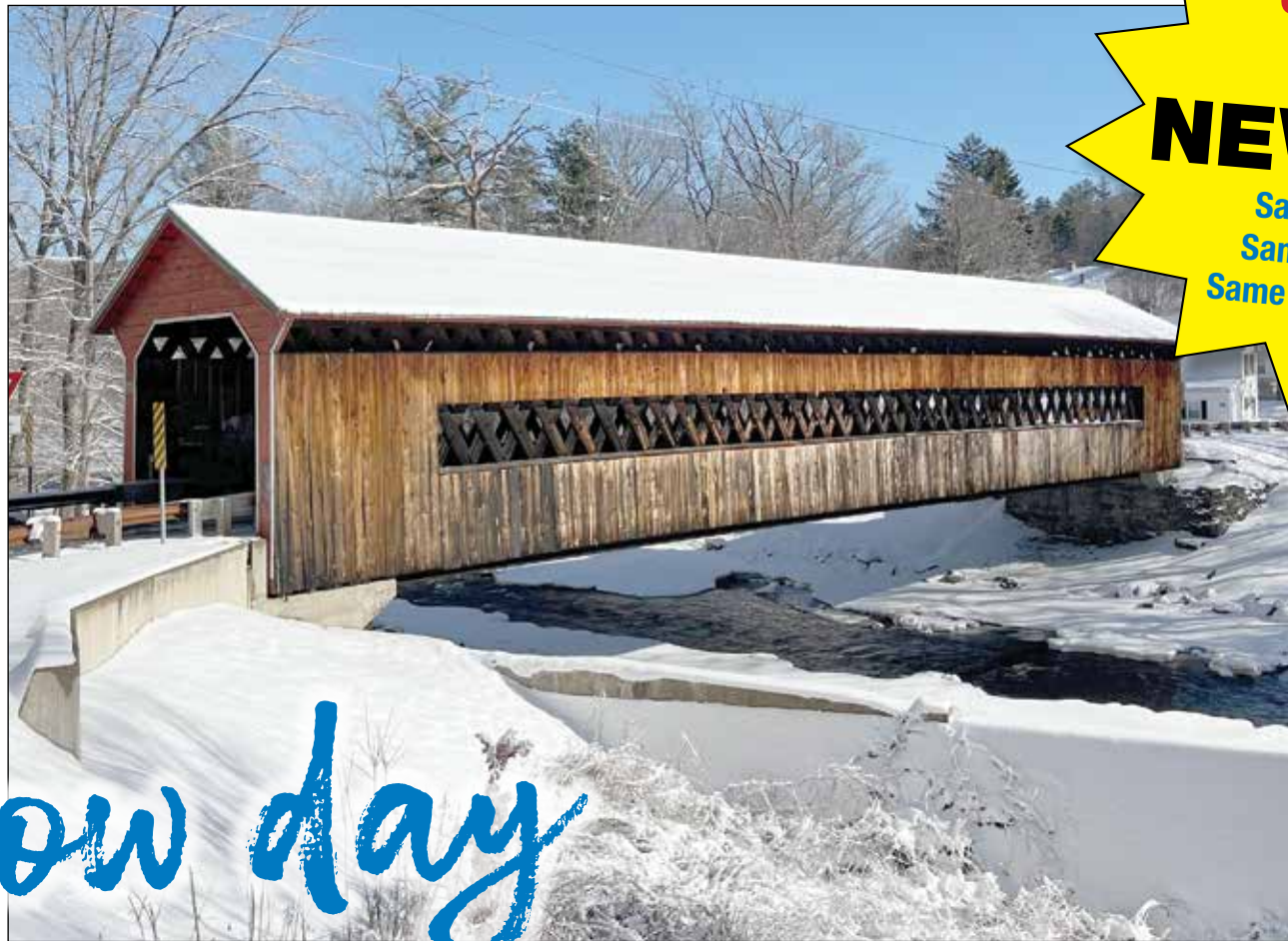
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## WINTER STORM BRINGS SNOW AND FRIGID TEMPERATURES



*Snow day*



While temperatures were too cold to build a snowman or enjoy a full day of sledding, the soft powdery snow provided the perfect conditions to create a snow angel.

Residents enjoyed a picturesque winter scene on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Inauguration Day this past Monday, from the snowstorm that began blanketing the region late Sunday afternoon. This photo shows the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge taken from Old Gilbertville Road.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



## MARKET SPOTLIGHT

### Ware and Fiskdale send artisans to the Winter Market

*Editor's note: The Ware River News will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.*

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Yes, it's cold, and we won't belabor that other than again to point out as we do most weeks, that there is warmth within a winter farmers market, specifically the one in session every winter Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St.

Jan. 15 was not an exception. With no hint of snow falling, though we do need moisture, navigating to downtown and parking was not an ordeal. Neither was entering the hall with vendors against all walls and the center with tables covered in vegetables.

There was a mix of products on display. One of them, a cottage industry manufacturer, who was with the market last year and is back again.

When we met Ware native Bernie Wilson in 2024, he was a world-class recycler as he makes pens out of old pallets. As noted last year, he confessed to being "too cheap to buy wood."

This year he stepped it up a bit. The historic covered bridge between Hardwick and Ware is made of wood that will periodically be replaced.

Not surprisingly, that chestnut wood is becoming pens.

Why stop there? There are road signs all over our region telling us to be on the lookout for deer. Bernie took heed and he also crafts his writing utensils out of antlers.

It was also observed last year that New England is home to another famous maker of pens, known for supplying writing instruments to the presidents. The A.T. Cross Company is

Please see **MARKET**, page 8



## PB discusses special permits

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board had a discussion regarding non-landowners applying for special permits.

This topic came about of a potential buyer of a property, who has no ownership yet, and if the buyer had to apply for the same special permit the current owner has. According to the Planning Board members, the potential buyer or non-landowner could get authorization from the current owner.

The Planning Board Vice-Chair Ed Londergan mentioned they could put it down as a special condition. In that case, the owner could apply for a special permit and under this special condition and if the owner sells the

land the permit could transfer.

The board seemed okay with the idea of non-landowners applying but would be required to have documentation if needed. The board suggested the current owner write a letter including the intent to transfer.

This discussion would lead to the next agenda item for the Planning Board: an informal special permit discussion for 727 Brimfield Road. The Planning Board reviewed a map to check the distance between the gravel pits and the property and the buffers between the work site and neighboring properties.

The current owner is seeking to complete the same amount of work that was initially allowed back in 2023. The difference in this special permit discussion is the allowance or no allowance of rock crushing on site.

In the original special permit, the Planning Board brought up rock crushing not being included. The applicant is hoping to amend the permit to allow rock crushing on the worksite.

The main concern the Planning Board had was where the rock crusher was going to be placed and whether or not it's not an issue with neighbors.

Planning Board member Derick Veliz spoke and addressed the gravel pits being too close to the property as well and mentioned that in his observation that there are no natural buffers or trees in the area to protect the neighbors.

According to the landowner, there have been no complaints regarding the work being done. The Planning Board suggested

Please see **WARREN**, page 6

## Meet the author



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Paige Memorial Library welcomed author David Payne during a "meet the author" this past weekend.

## Paige Memorial Library welcomed David Payne

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library welcomed author David Payne this past weekend to discuss his new book, "Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take".

Payne is a writer and streamer who writes daily for accountability and inspiration for other writers. He returned to writing after a seven year break from the craft in 2021 and has been creative in his writing based of whatever comes to his mind.

"Wait for stories to come organically," Payne said.

Payne's new book "Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take" features nine contemporary realism stories to remind you every day is a journey, of consequence or not is up to you. Taking those everyday moments and enjoying

them, being scared by them, suffering through them.

As part of his presentation during the event, Payne read one of the stories in his book, and the story is titled "Flash". The story is based off an incident that happened during Payne's childhood near his childhood home.

Sharing this story is a prime example of why Payne believes it is important for writers to "go on the journey" and talk about those everyday moments. Though his recent book is focused on contemporary realism, Payne sees himself more as a fantasy writer.

Since 2023, Payne has been submitting his work and shared during his time at Paige Memorial Library that he has a lot of stories in the works.

Payne self-published "Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take" and also had several short stories pub-

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 11

## ★ VETERAN APPRECIATION ★

### Cornhole event and dinner held at AMVETS

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – An appreciation dinner for veterans was held at the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers this past weekend.

The dinner was organized and put together by We the People Cornhole offers friendly competition

Over 150 guests preregistered and over 175 meals were made. The dinner featured steak tips, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad and a dinner roll. For dessert there were cupcakes and apple crisp.

This was the first dinner being hosted by We the People Cornhole and it had a sensational turnout.

Please see **VETERANS**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The crew was busy prepping the steak tip dinners for all the veterans and guests at the appreciation dinner.

# NOW OPEN!

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COMMUNITY

Wildlife tracking event Jan. 25

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SPORTS

Indians move into first place

Page 9

# Nu-Blu brings Bluegrass sound straight from the Blue Ridge Mountains

**HARDWICK** – After releasing five Top Ten Billboard albums, North Carolina based Nu-Blu is heading to central Massachusetts.

On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, hosts Nu-Blu for an evening of bluegrass and Americana music.

Nu-Blu got their start in September 2003, and from the beginning have embodied the American working band. Hailing from Siler City, the textbook definition of a picturesque small southern town, Nu-Blu's heart and soul is husband-and-wife duo Daniel and Carolyn Routh.

Carolyn's caramel-coated soprano is one of the band's defining traits – at times a tender lullaby, at times a freight train headed straight for you, but always unwinding a surprising tale. Daniel is the group's

backbone – a multi-instrumentalist and backing vocalist who also handles band management.

Austin Hefflefinger on banjo, and Justin Harrison on mandolin round out the quartet's warm, layered, Appalachian sound. Together, the band delivers songs that range from melancholy to exuberant and prove at every step that they've got a knack for finding their way into the deeper parts of you.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for students and seniors. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://www.thecenterateaglehill.org) or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

**About The Center**  
The Center at Eagle Hill is



Submitted Photo

Nu-Blu will perform at The Center at Eagle Hill on Saturday, Feb. 8.

a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy. For more information about

this, and other events, please visit our website at [www.thecenterateaglehill.org](http://www.thecenterateaglehill.org).

# Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is March 8

**WARE** – The Ware Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 8 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

To register, scan the QR code or visit [www.polarplungema.org](http://www.polarplungema.org).



# St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

**HARDWICK** – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an Open House at the school on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of our growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

Please feel free to call the school 413-477-1268 or reach out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the school's website ([www.staloy-siuses.com](http://www.staloy-siuses.com)) under the "Join our Family" tab.

# Take-out turkey dinner to be held Feb. 3

**WARE** – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will hold a take-out turkey dinner on Monday, Feb. 3 from 5-6 p.m.

This dinner is take-out only and reservations are not required. Please park on the same side of the street as the church and stay in your car and a runner will come and take your order.

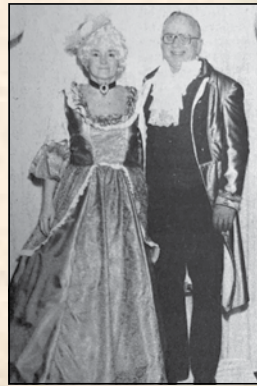
The cost is \$15 per meal. Please pay with cash or check.

# Are You Old News?



Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).



File Photo  
Last week's photo from 1989 showed Paula Roberts and Donald Roberts attending the New Year's ball at the Hardwick Town House in formal colonial attire. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

# OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

# Valentine Gala on Feb. 8 to benefit Stone Church

**HARDWICK** – Friends of the Stone Church welcomes all to a Valentine-themed benefit from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road in Gilbertville.

All proceeds will benefit the preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center, the iconic regional landmark located at 283 Main St., Gilbertville, and the programs of the Stone Church Cultural Center.

For tickets at \$65 per person, mail payment to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or order online through [www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](http://www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org). \$30 of the \$65 ticket price is a tax-deductible contribution to FOSC.

Advance purchase is required by Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. For more information, call Kathy McCrohon at 508-404-7552.

The Mason Tyler Duo: Lou Falcone and Mark Fontaine will entertain, offering a variety of music from oldies to contemporary dance tunes. Professional auctioneer Paul Varney will emcee and conduct a live auction of featured items.

The silent auction will include certificates for experiences, services and products, collectible items, and gift baskets, all donated by generous businesses and individuals. Hardwick Crossing will serve an entrée-choice dinner buffet style with vegetables, salad, appetizer, desserts and beverages. There will be a full cash bar.

### About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a community-focused, charitable organization. They require ongoing financial and volunteer support in the areas of preservation, programs, maintenance and organizational development to carry out their mission.

To volunteer, contact the organization through its website [www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](http://www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org). Donations are welcome online through the website or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

# QUABOAG VALLEY

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For more information, email Sawyer, at [sblakeetownofware.com](mailto:sblakeetownofware.com)

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com), or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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## Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

### ACTIVITIES Monday, Jan. 27

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

### Thursday, Jan. 30

- 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2:30 p.m. Art Class

### Friday, Jan. 31

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

### LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

### Monday, Jan. 27

Shepherd's Pie, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

BBQ Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies of the Day, Dessert of the Day

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

American Chop Suey, Salad, Dessert of the Day

### Thursday, Jan. 30

Buffalo Chicken Sandwich with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

### Friday, Jan. 31

Tuna Melt Sandwich, Soup, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

## Nomination papers available for annual town election

WARE – Nomination Papers are now available to any interested individual who are registered voters in the Town of Ware.

Nomination Papers are available for the following elected offices which will appear on the Annual Town Election Ballot of April 14.

Selectboard, one seat, three-year term; School Committee, two seats, three-year terms; Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term; Board of Health, one seat, three-year term; Park Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Planning Board, one seat, five-year term; Planning Board, one seat, unexpired term, four years; Ware Housing Authority, one seat, five-year term; and Ware Housing Authority, one seat, unexpired term, one year.

All incumbent office holders have been notified of their term's expiration. Current office holders are as follows: Selectboard – Joshua Kusnierz, School Committee – Christopher Desjardins and Brian Winslow,

Board of Assessors – Gerald Fountain, Jr., Board of Health – Jennifer McMartin, Park Commissioner – Ryan Mulligan, Cemetery Commissioner – Paul Harper, Planning Board – Kenneth Crosby, Ware Housing Authority – Nancy Brown.

The Planning Board seat which has an unexpired term of four years is due to the resignation of Shane Millier and the Ware Housing Authority unexpired term of one year is due to the appointment made by the Selectboard to last only until the next Annual Town Election.

Nomination Papers are available at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Deadline to apply and return Nomination Papers is Monday, Feb. 24.

Interested individuals may contact the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103 to discuss further or ask questions as needed.

Information will appear on the Town of Ware website, www.townofware.com and in the Ware River News and TV 15.

## EQLT to host animal tracks and wildlife signs event

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a free Animal Tracks & Wildlife Sign Identification event on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1-3 p.m.

EQLT Steward, Mike Stoll, will lead this interactive event beginning with a "show and share" teach-in of some of the most common wildlife sign in central Massachusetts. From there, participants will head outside to look for real-life examples of what they learned.

Participants will learn how to recognize the telltale signs of animals large and small, from evidence of browse and foraging, to antler "rubs" and gauging an animal's gait. Attendees are welcome to bring their own animal-track photos to identify.

Open to all ages, participants will come away with a better understanding of how to spot and identify different animal tracks and sign in fields, forests and their own backyards.

The Animal Tracks & Wildlife Sign Identification event will be held at EQLT's office located at

120 Ridge Road.

The outdoor portion will be held on hilly terrain in both grassy and wooded areas. Attendees are encouraged to have sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

### About EQLT

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts.

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2024, EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat to unplanned sprawl in and around Hardwick.

Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its protection efforts to Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, and other nearby towns. By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 6,200 acres in the region.

## Meeting to discuss East/West Rail on Jan. 27

PALMER – A meeting will be held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant on Monday, Jan. 27 from 6-8 p.m. to discuss the future of the rail stop in the state's East/West Rail Project.

The public is invited to participate in the discussion. Food and

cash bar will be provided by the restaurant.

## Ground breaks on \$30 million Route 9 reconstruction project

WEST BROOKFIELD – When West Brookfield Highway Superintendent Jim Daley was hired in 2010, he knew something had to be done about the dangerous section of West Main Street/Route 9 between West Brookfield and Ware.

At his request, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation agreed to perform a Road Safety Audit in 2012 which confirmed his fears. This specific portion of road was found to be one of the most dangerous segments of Route 9 in the state due to its high incidence and severity of motor vehicle crashes.

He quickly realized that annual Chapter 90 funds which most small towns rely on to fund their road projects, would not be sufficient to fund an undertaking of this magnitude. Depleting Chapter 90 funds on Route 9 would also make it impossible to do smaller, more routine public works projects in the rest of the town for years to come.

In 2011, the Route 9 Reconstruction project was accepted into the highly competitive, federally and state funded Transportation Improvement Program. West Brookfield was awarded just over \$8 million dollars needed to fund Phase I, which begins at the Ware town line and proceeds to Welcome Road.

Due to the size of the project, it has been divided into three Phases which will take place in succession starting from the Ware town line up to where the State

Highway begins near Cutler and Old Warren Road in West Brookfield, with a total TIP award of about \$30 million. All work is projected to be complete by 2030.

"MassDOT is dedicated to enhancing safety and accessibility along our roadways, and we are proud to collaborate with the town of West Brookfield on this significant reconstruction project," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "We would like to thank our municipal partners for their advocacy on this project and look forward to improved safety, accessibility, and resiliency along Route 9."

Daley, just a couple years away from retirement, is pleased to finally be overseeing the start a project he initiated nearly 15 years ago. He is grateful for the guidance he's received from the engineers at CHA Consulting, the State Aid office at MassDOT, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning, Transportation Improvement Program and American Rescue Plan Act funding, "without these federal and state funding opportunities, professional collaborations and the support of the West Brookfield town leadership and its residents, a project of this scope would not have been possible in our small town."

"This kind of funding is absolutely essential for the growth and safety of our roadway infrastructure in small-town Massachusetts," said Chairman of the West Brookfield Board of

Selectmen Eric Von Bleicken. "Thanks to our Highway Superintendent's due diligence and persistence in applying for these federal and state monies, we can move ahead."

Identified by a 2012 Road Safety Audit as one of the most dangerous sections of Route 9 in the state due to the high number of motor vehicle incidents, the section between West Brookfield and Ware will be reconstructed with the primary objective of improving safety for all users.

The initial Phase I portion of the project consists of a large amount of full depth road reconstruction as well as resurfacing a one-mile section of West Main Street/Route 9 between Welcome Road and the Ware town line.

The roadway will also be widened to include a five-foot shoulder on each side, to improve safety for all roadway users including emergency vehicles, maintenance vehicles, disabled vehicles, and to provide bicycle accommodation. Drainage modifications will improve stormwater runoff which will also help prevent icing during winter conditions.

All existing guardrails will be replaced, and new signage and pavement markings will be included. Travelers should expect temporary lane closures and increased delays during the construction of Phase I which is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2026.

## DCR hosts indigenous lifeways event Jan. 25

AMHERST – Precontact Lifeways in the Connecticut River Valley will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West St.

Jennifer Lee, independent researcher, shares her learning of

Indigenous lifeways – clothing, footpaths, travel, shelter, the use of bark, communication, stone features, foodways and more.

Come heighten your awareness of this important part of the Mt. Holyoke Range and the Connecticut River Valley's story.

This program is free and for ages 7 and up. For more info call 413-253-2883. ADA/Reasonable Accommodations are possible by emailing Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov, or calling 617-645-0358.

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The Town of Ware Planning Board is looking for a member to fill one vacancy until the Town Election on April 14, 2025. Any interested persons should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by February 4th, and attend the Selectboard meeting at 7pm on February 4th.



**Town of Ware Town Hall  
Change in Business Hours  
Effective February 01, 2025**

**NEW PUBLIC HOURS:**  
Monday 8am – 4pm  
Tuesday 8am – 4pm  
**Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** 8am – 4pm  
Thursday 8am – 4pm  
Friday 8am – 4pm

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition.  
Ware Town Hall  
Questions? Call 413-967-9648 x100  
Visit: [townofware.com/town\\_directory](http://townofware.com/town_directory)

Taxes can be paid four ways (payable to Town of Ware):  
**By Mail:** Department 3370, PO Box 986500, Boston, MA 02298-6500  
**Electronically:** through your bank or online at <https://townofwarema.munisselfservice.com/css>  
**Payment Drop Box:** in secure drop box near the main entrance on West Street, available 24/7/365  
**In Person:** during new public business hours or with a scheduled appointment

**NOTICE**

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**Valentine's Day SPECIALS**  
See Our Website



**HARDWICK CROSSING COUNTRY CLUB**  
EST. 2022

**OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF**  
Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

**Galentine's Day Charcuterie and Wine Tasting**  
Sunday, February 9th 3:00 p.m. Tickets required.  
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Monday Trivia Night 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, Music Bingo 6:30 p.m.

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Starting at 6:30 p.m.

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## When to claim Social Security and taxation of benefits

Dear Rusty:

I am 65 and currently working full-time. Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.

Signed: Curious Worker

Dear Curious Worker:

If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status - if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable.

But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that in the form of a slightly increased benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## Catching up on questions for the Garden Lady

This column will be used to play catch-up. I received a couple of questions a few weeks back on Christmas plants and then another looking forward to the new gardening season.

Read on as I do my best to answer them!

Connie is the keeper of her mother's poinsettia and it's become tree-like! "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time, I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So, if it's in a six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement with no light interruption will work fine. It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!

Beverly has me stumped!! She wrote in with this question: "After my Christmas cactus has bloomed, I get very tiny buds (like pimples) all over the plant. However, they quickly fall off so no more blooms. Can you explain what to do about this?"

This is a tricky one, Beverly! I am wondering if this is a newer breed of Christmas Cactus that is expected to bloom over a longer period of time than the old-fashioned types.

Usually buds fall off if there is a change somehow. Overwatering, underwatering? Perhaps a change in location whereby the plant is now near a heater when it wasn't before. Or maybe a change in fertilization practices?

That's about all I can come up with. I do hope that once blooming is over your plant remains healthy and provides many flowers for years to come!

This came to the Garden Lady from Gary: "I enjoy reading your articles.

Is there value or harm mixing old coffee grounds into your flower or vegetable gardens? Thanks!"

Thank you for your compliments on the column! My dad used to sprinkle coffee grounds around our blueberry bushes when I was a kid.

It was his theory that the acidic grounds would be good for blueberry bushes which by nature are acid-loving. Well, it turns out that most of the acid from the coffee grounds is leached into the water when the coffee is brewed, leaving a near neutral product that aligns with pH of most common vegetables and flowers!

Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen and have lesser, but still respectable amounts of the other two major nutrients, phosphorus and potassium, as well as many of the micronutrients. The nitrogen is "tied up," however, and not readily available to plants.

It must be composted first to make it available. So, I would recommend you either add it to a compost pile or mix it in with other mulches you may be using on top of the soil.

It can be combined with wood chips, grass clippings or chopped leaves to make a great and fertile mulch, that, as it breaks down, will add organic matter to the soil and be a nutritious food for your plants and the earthworms. In fact, folks who vermicompost (keep a worm bin) notice just how much the worms love coffee grounds mixed in with other food waste.

You've encouraged me to get a bit more serious about putting our household coffee grounds to good use!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## Scammers target victims by pretending to be government registry

Government impostor scams take on new twists, seeking to trick unsuspecting consumers and businesses.

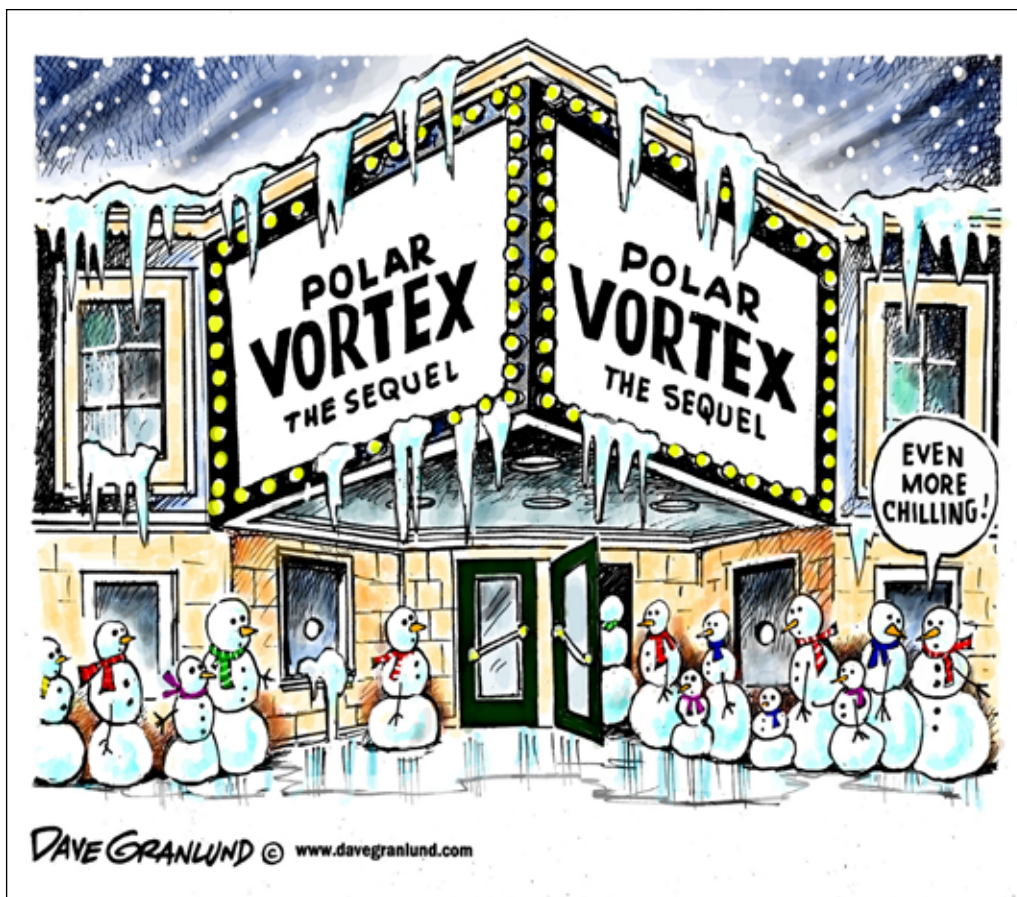
In the newest version, third-party companies offer businesses help with managing their registrations for the U.S. System for Award Management, SAM.gov, for a fee. SAM.gov is a free U.S. government registry for vendors doing business with the government.

According to the SAM.gov official website, users can register to do business with the US government, update business entity registrations, search for records, assistance, contract opportunities, data reports, and access publicly available award data.

**How the scam works**

You receive an email from what appears to be a SAM.gov representative stating that your registration is set to expire sometime soon. You are threatened with delaying or losing business funding or even at risk of having your registration deleted within the system.

You are instructed to update your information immediately using a link and a unique case code provided in the correspondence. If you follow the link, you'll be taken to a third-party registration center website claiming to help businesses that do business with the federal government and you'll be prompted to pay the third-party for your renewal.



Better Business Bureau files indicate that the services listed in this BBB Business Profile have a pattern of complaints concerning non-service provided after payment is made. Consumer complaints state that they signed up for the SAM Program and, after paying, are not able to reach the business, and services for the program have not been completed as advised.

BBB contacted the business in September 2021 about the pattern of complaints but has not received a response at this time.

**Tips to avoid this scam**

Never pay for SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov is a free U.S. government registry

Please see **SCAMS**, page 5

## A starlit hike in the White Mountains

By Julie Midura  
Correspondent

This was our final hike of 2024. It was 5:15 a.m., and we were lying on our backs staring up at the stars, cocooned in our bright green two-person down sleeping bag atop several feet of snow on the wide open summit of Mount Jackson in New Hampshire.

The sun was still two hours from cresting the distant horizon. It was dead calm, but bitterly cold.

In spite of donning every layer in my winter arsenal, I shivered and snuggled closer to Tom as I gathered the excess fabric of the bag as close to my body as I could.

We had arrived at the trailhead parking lot almost three hours before. It was 0 degrees when we stepped out of our SUV and opened the back hatch to retrieve our backpacks.

In a split second of hesitation, I questioned our sanity. "Who in their right mind climbs a mountain in the pitch black of night in these ungodly temperatures just to see the sun rise?" Then I immediately thought, "Too late now. We dropped the metal key in the drop box a half hour ago in the dead of night, so we'll be climbing this moun-

tain whether I want to or not."

As we moved upward along the snaking path, the beams of light from our headlamps danced between the snow covered trees, creating an aura of mystery as the long shadows stretched deep into the blackened forest. Our headlamps ignited the untouched snow on the sides of the trail, giving the illusion of walking on a smooth white carpet of infinite shimmering diamonds.

When we finally broke tree line, the crescent moon and twinkling stars welcomed us to a dark and windless summit. I stood, unmoving, serenaded by the whisper of starlight in the heavens above me.

Eight years of hiking in every season. Numerous hiking lists. Thousands of miles. Climbing the second tallest mountain in the continental United States. Section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Every hike. Every backpacking trip. Every footprint left on every mountain.

Each one propelling us forward to the next...eventually leading us to this singular unforgettable moment.

A moment of being suspended in time, somewhere between our very

first hike and what will someday be our very last. Suspended between the valley below and the heavens above while basking under the brilliance of a million twinkling stars against the backdrop of a black velvet sky, while waiting for the sun to awaken the earth in a blaze of fiery brilliance.

And although we hope that we'll have the opportunity to experience a

Please see **HIKE**, page 5



Snuggled in our sleeping bags on our snowy perch.



Watching the sunrise from the summit of Mount Jackson, New Hampshire.

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## OPINION POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:  
Ware River News  
Letter to the Editor  
80 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082  
or via email to:  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.**

## Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

# Get creative at Workshop13

Art programs for youth offered through winter months

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 has a variety of art programs available in the coming months for young artists.

Below are some enriching programs that are approaching in 2025.

## Creative Break Art Week

The instructors for Creative Break Art Week will be Chloe Roux and Grace Cantalini. This program is for young artists, ages 6-12.

Creative Break Art Week will be held Feb. 17-21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The program is \$320 and members will receive a 10% discount at checkout.

Join Workshop13 for a week of creativity, exploration, and inspiration in “Creative Break: Celebrating Women Artists”. This week-long art camp will honor the contributions of women throughout history by diving into the work of some of the most influential female artists.

Each day, students will be introduced to a different artist, exploring their unique styles, techniques, and stories. Through hands-on projects, they will channel their inner creativity and develop their own artistic voice.

The focus of this camp is not only to learn about the history of art but also to empower young artists to express themselves freely, experiment with new mediums, and understand the importance of diverse voices in the art world.

Bring a hearty snack, lunch, water bottle, and warm clothing. Weather dependent, participants will head to Grenville Park for fresh air and games.

## Fine Arts for Kids

Join the Fine Arts for Kids class in March, where



A visit from the infamous Grey Jays, with Mount Washington in the distance.

**HIKE** from page 4

moment like this again, we've learned the hard way that there are no guarantees in this life.

So we settle in for however long it takes. We inhale the clean mountain air. We feel the cold kiss our cheeks and the silence fill our ears. We wait for the sun to silence the stars and breathe life onto the earth.

We remain snuggled in our lofty bright green sleeping bag on a snowy perch atop a 4,000-foot mountain for over four hours, unwilling to leave lest we miss one single minute of the magic that is unfolding in front of us.

And as we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn, we know that for the rest of our lives, for as long as there is breath in our lungs and blood running through our veins...we will never forget this moment.

See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures, follow us on Instagram @morethanthemountain.

**SCAMS** from page 4

that does not require a fee to register, renew or update your registration. If you receive an email from a company offering to help with your registration or renewal for a fee, it's best to ignore it.

Verify directly with the agency. If someone claims to be from a government agency, contact the agency using its official website or phone number. Never use the contact information provided by the caller or emailer.

Know how government agencies operate. Legitimate agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration, or Service Canada will not demand immediate payment, threaten arrest, or ask for sensitive information over the phone, email, or text.

Check email extensions. Official government correspondence usually comes from “.gov” or “.mil” addresses. Messages from Gmail, Yahoo, or similar domains claiming to be government-related are scams.

Protect your personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive details like Social Security or Social Insurance numbers, bank account details, or passwords unless you initiate contact with a verified agency.

Report scams immediately. Report any suspicious contact to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov or through BBB Scam Tracker at bbb.org.

young artists can learn fine art techniques to make stunning work. Over the course of four Saturdays, students will explore essential fine art techniques while learning about art history and studying master artists.

This isn't your average art class, according to Workshop13, but a “mini masters” and “mighty masters” group, to allow age-appropriate projects while fostering a one room schoolhouse learning space. Each four-week session is themed, which will serve as a connector to an array of artists, skills and practices and types of artworks.

Projects will include and not be limited to print-making, sculpture, clay, papermaking, marbling, dyeing, drawing, and painting.

Sessions are four weeks long, taking place on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuition is \$100; and members will receive a 10% discount at checkout.

## Masters in the Morning: Home School Art

Masters in the Morning is an eight-week fine art program designed to introduce children ages 6-12 to a variety of artistic techniques and practices, from traditional methods to contemporary creativity. This class will give students the chance to try their hand

at different mediums and explore art in a relaxed, hands-on environment.

Each week, young artists will dive into a new project, giving students the opportunity to build both technical skills and creative confidence.

The program will cover everything from pen and ink drawing to paper making, ebru marbling, acrylic painting, and more. By the end of the program, each child will have a portfolio of their work and a deeper understanding of the artistic process.

Masters in the Morning will take place on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$275 and members will receive a 10% discount at checkout.

## Spring into Art Week

The week of April 21-25 will feature Spring into Art Week for ages 6-12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$320, and members will receive a 10% discount at checkout.

For more information about these art programs, email [remington@workshop13.org](mailto:remington@workshop13.org).

Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center is located at 13 Church St. For more information, visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

PAID ADVERTORIAL

## Addressing the health and health care needs of Ware and surrounding communities through collaboration

Baystate Health has its roots in one local physician who started lobbying during the Civil War and was finally successful over a decade later in founding a hospital for our community. Pioneering mergers into the 1970s and beyond created health care stability in our region and unlocked opportunities for innovation, growth, and medical education. Today, Baystate's “North Star” is moving toward being a clinically driven, physician-led health system that seamlessly integrates community-based, safety net care with the innovation and research of our academic enterprise to deliver high-quality care, access, and experience to our neighbors.

I am honored to be part of this amazing and diverse organization as only the fourth CEO and the first from outside the organization. In just seven months in the role, I have been inspired, energized, and renewed by our Board of Trustees, physicians, providers, caregivers, and volunteers who value our Mission and the communities we serve.

We understand that our actions to close Baystate Mary Lane and merger of services into Baystate Wing had far-reaching implications for access to care, economic development, and employment in Ware and the surrounding communities. Volatile patient volumes and acuity, rising costs and inflation, workforce challenges, inadequate payments (Medicare, Medicaid, and health plans), and economic, demographic, and policy factors all contributed to Baystate Mary Lane's unsustainability.

Since 2010, on average, more than 13 hospitals close each year in our country (24 in 2024 alone). According to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform (CHQPR), more than 30% of hospitals in the United States are at risk of closing over the next five years. Today, three-quarters of the health systems in Massachusetts are experiencing significant operating losses. We have seen other hospital closures in our state while other hospitals have restructured, decreased services, or sought affiliations with large systems. The trend of hospital closure and consolidation will only increase as organizations try to adapt to a rapidly evolving health care delivery and payment system.

While the decision to close Baystate Mary Lane was absolutely the right decision, our communication, transparency, and planning around the closure and future for health and health care in the area left a lot to be desired. Today, I want to share with you the steps we are taking – in partnership with key community leaders – to explore how to best address the needs of Ware and surrounding communities.

Starting in September 2024, my team and I personally started meeting with the area's State Representative, Ware Town Manager, and Ware Hospital Committee Chair. The Ware Selectboard Chair joined our group in December. These meetings are an opportunity for me and Baystate to listen and understand, demonstrate respect for the stakeholders involved, start Baystate's path toward rebuilding trust, and initiate collaborative actions in the community.

Baystate has committed to delaying the demolition of the six connected hospital buildings and house and garage at 89 South Street for a reasonable period of time when the nine-month demolition delay expired on October 17, 2024, identifying meaningful and visible ways to memorialize Mary Lane and its place in the history of Ware, delivering health care to the community, spurring economic development and investment into the site, and ensuring the appropriate use of the trust funds and endowments for health care in the community.

It is time to cut through the rhetoric, personal attacks, conspiracy theories, and idleness over the past three years. All this noise – especially from “friends” of the hospital – has accomplished nothing but sow division in the community and serve as a distraction from actual progress. It has directly impacted potential organizations from investing their time, talent, and treasure in meaningful solutions. Despite dozens of attempts from individuals and groups including Baystate, no health care organization other than Baystate has expressed interest to establish a presence in Ware. No new businesses are interested. No housing organizations as well. There will be swift consequences for those continuing to share false information that is harming the reputation of individuals, organizations, and the community.

The Gilbert Trust Fund was intentionally and specifically created to benefit the health and health care needs of Ware and the village of Gilbertville in the town of Hardwick. Up until the end of 2023, Baystate used these monies for the operation at Baystate Mary Lane. The Gilbert Trust is held by Bank of America as the trustee and the current market value is approximately \$7.7 million. We regularly report to Bank of America on the use of those funds by Baystate to ensure that the funds spent meet the intent of the Trust. When all services on the Mary Lane campus concluded in December 2023, distributions to Baystate from the Trust were put on hold. When Baystate starts providing direct services in Ware, we intend to draw on the Trust again. If Baystate is unable to bring needed health care services to Ware, we will work with Bank of America and the State Attorney General's Office to ensure a new beneficiary is identified for the Trust.

Baystate Wing also became the beneficiary of several additional trusts and endowments (not restricted to the limited use at Baystate Mary Lane or Ware) when Baystate Mary Lane merged with Baystate Wing in 2016. The total market value of these funds is approximately \$1.3 million, and Baystate Health Foundation receives regular distributions from the trustees on behalf of Baystate Wing, which had income of approximately \$32,000 in 2024. Baystate is accountable to the State Attorney General for the appropriate use of these funds. However, to demonstrate our transparency in the use of both sets of funds, I will be commissioning a third-party assessment to ensure Baystate's complete compliance and stewardship of the funds for which we were entrusted.

In early January, we brought to our stakeholder group meeting specific plans on our physical and programmatic presence in the community to address the health and health care needs of the community. Based on the direct feedback from this group, we are specifically addressing primary and convenient care. We are currently in the process of looking at potential existing space in Ware for up to three primary care providers to practice. Since 2020, we have invested more than \$14 million in Baystate Wing in convenient care, clinic renovations, and imaging. As part of our current Baystate Health 2030 system strategic plan, we intend to further our commitment and expand services at Baystate Wing over the next five years to distribute care and expand access throughout Western Massachusetts. We will continue to bring the right people to the table – including the Baystate Wing Community Advisory Council – to find solutions for the ongoing growth and development at Baystate Wing. We will hold ourselves accountable for urgent follow-through and action on all our commitments.

This is a new time at Baystate Health. We are ushering in a new era of healthy growth – in business, in community, and in spirit. In wanting to be part of transforming health and health care, we are committed to working with our community to make it happen.

Peter D. Banko  
President & CEO  
Baystate Health

# warren

## Local author presents writing/publishing workshop, March 9

WEST BROOKFIELD – “Everyone has a story to tell,” said award-winning author Ed Londergan.

His ninth annual creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salem Cross Inn.

“The writing workshop aims to help those who want to write but don’t know where to start or who have had an idea for a story that’s been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper. I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead,” said Londergan, who provides a full day of information.

“The workshop will cover the entire process of writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure, and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer’s block, and the publishing process,” Londergan said. “The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I’ll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also

be some fun writing exercises.”

Past workshops have been attended by people of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to 75-year-old retirees.

“Five attendees have written books and had them published while others have had stories and articles placed in various publications,” said Londergan.

“One of the things past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises,” Londergan said. “The writing exercises this year are different than what I’ve done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them.”

“Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations. At times, a lot of ‘here’s what happened to me, and here’s what I did,’” he said.

The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110, and lunch is included.

Registration is required, and the deadline is Febr. 28. To register, email ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.

## Nomination papers for town elections available Feb. 3

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town Clerks’ of Warren, Laura Stockley, and West Brookfield, Heather Gough, announce that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 3 for the Annual Town Election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

Office hours in the town of Warren are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1-6 p.m.; and for the town of West Brookfield, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Quaboag Regional School Committee nomination papers will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open are: two members from Warren for a three-year term and two members from West Brookfield for a three-year term.

## Names sought of craftswomen who made 1991 town quilt

WARREN – The Warren Town Quilt has come out of its resting place and is now hanging in a brand new case on a wall at the Shepard Municipal Building.

A celebration of its being hung in this beautifully crafted case will be scheduled in a few weeks.

A plaque is planned to list all the craftswomen who worked on the quilt to celebrate the Town’s 250th Anniversary in 1991. If you, or someone you know (or knew), worked on the Warren Town Quilt in 1991, please contact Historical Commission Chair, Sylvia G. Buck sgbuck37@verizon.net and include a telephone number at which you can be reached. Use “Warren Town Quilt” in the subject line to verify your intent.

## Historical Society and DCR present program about Prince Walker

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – This past Sunday, the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center hosted a virtual presentation about Prince Walker of Barre, who went from being enslaved to a landowner.

Walker lived in Barre prior to his escape from enslavement. The home of James Caldwell was one of Walker’s homes and the map indicates the homestead was right off Route 62 in Barre.

Allen shared a bill of sale modeled from the original bill of sale of when Walker’s family came to Barre. This bill of sale dates to May 4, 1754.

One unique detail Allen shared about Walker’s presence in Barre is that he was born eight days after the incorporation of Barre as a town in Massachusetts.

At the age of 9, Walker was sold to John Watson of East Windsor, Connecticut. He was taken from his family by Nathaniel Jennison, the second husband of Isabel Caldwell, who lost her husband James Caldwell back in 1763.

The home of John Watson was shown in the presentation. The photograph of the home was taken earlier this month.

Prior to his 21st birthday, Walker believed he was going to be sent to Georgia but planned to escape slavery. He was successful and made his way back home to Barre.

Allen’s presentation began with sharing a slide featuring an oil painting by Hardwick artist Frank Bly, who in 1990, created a painting of the Prince Walker Burial Ground. This painting is currently housed inside the Barre Historical Society.

The former homestead of Prince Walker is now part of the Ware River Watershed and as time went by after his death in 1858, the area of his burial ground has been grown in with brush and is on a hillside near the watershed. Luckily, his gravestone on the burial ground was preserved.

One of the slides featured maps of the exact location of where

Walker lived in Barre prior to his escape from enslavement. The home of James Caldwell was one of Walker’s homes and the map indicates the homestead was right off Route 62 in Barre.

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Prior to his 21st birthday, Walker believed he was going to be sent to Georgia but planned to escape slavery. He was successful and made his way back home to Barre.

By the beginning of the 19th century, Walker would become the head of a household. His first wife was Betsey Daws Walker, who died in 1809. He would remarry and his second wife was Anna Morse.

Between these two marriages Walker had at least nine children. Some of them got to go to school in Massachusetts.

Allen shared a form from the No. 11 School Register form from the 1840-1841 school year. Two Walker children were listed in that form

Allen’s presentation also featured an advertisement from the Barre Gazette back on Oct. 16, 1846. This caution ad from Walker suggested that his wife Anna was no longer with him and he would not pay the debts of his wife or children.

Walker ran another ad in the Barre Gazette in 1847, he was 73 at the time. The ad was him seeking a new wife, particularly of his race, who could “take charge of his household affairs” and “smooth the pillow of his declining years.”

On April 21, 1858, Walker died at the age of 84. The Barre Gazette published an article about his death and it mentioned he owned seven acres of land with a barn and various kinds of fruit trees. He left his estate to six of his children.

The conclusion of the article about his death read, “he escaped from slavery and returned to this town, where he has since resided, leading a quiet and inoffensive life, up to the time of his death.” The article also mentioned that Walker was known as “Little Prince.”

A couple of years ago, Allen and the Barre Historical Society hosted a historic walk to the Prince Walker Burial Ground near the Ware River Watershed. There is a sign posted near the burial ground, which is not too far from the Walker homesite in Barre.

Allen ended the presentation by taking questions from the audience who attended the virtual presentation after sharing the great story about Prince Walker, who began his life enslaved before achieving freedom and becoming a landowner in the town of Barre.

## Quaboag hosts annual craft and small business fair Feb. 8

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, is bringing back its annual Craft & Small Business Fair on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, this fair is a perfect opportunity to shop local and get some gifts for your loved ones. This annual fair is hosted by Quaboag’s Student Council.

The fair has free admission and features over 80 local crafters and small business vendors that will be set up all across the halls of Quaboag. There will also be concessions available.

The fair will also feature raffle tables with numerous prizes available. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards the Student Council’s MASC Leadership conference in Hyannis.

## Ware Library hosts puzzle swap on Feb. 1

WARE – As we make our way through the cold winter months, you may be thinking of indoor activities; and puzzles are a great way to stay entertained.

If you are looking at your stack of puzzles thinking “I could use some new puzzles,” you are in luck. The Ware Library, 37 Main St., is hosting a Puzzle Swap in the Reading Room on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Simply bring a puzzle you’ve already conquered and swap it out for a new-to-you puzzle. The Puzzle Swap is free to the public and there is no registration

required; just drop in. The library also has puzzles and games you can check out with a library card at any time. Follow the library on Facebook for updates, call 413-967-5491, or email warelibrary1881@gmail.com with any questions.

## Friends of the Stone Church receives Cultural Council support for concerts

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church received notice that the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council will provide \$750 in partial

support of their 2025 spring concerts at the Stone Church Cultural Center, located at 283 Main St., in Gilbertville.

## Blood drive to be held at Wing Hosp. on Feb. 12

PALMER – The community is invited to celebrate Valentine’s Day and National Heart Month by giving the gift of life by donating blood at the Baystate Health blood drive held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Additionally, blood drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year in 2025, on April 16, June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 15 and Dec. 17.

“There continues to be an urgent need for blood! When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities,” said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services. “Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

“There is no substitute for human blood,” said VanZandt. “Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds, have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.”

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood, please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

### WARREN from page 1

that the owner put up some screening or fencing at some point. The process for this special permit could start in February.

#### Wireless tower modifications

The Planning Board discussed wireless tower modifications and if a special permit is required. According to Chair Rich Eichacker, this intent of this project is “to make sure we have updated information on what is on that tower.”

Danielle Sabourin of Airosmith Development attended the Planning Board meeting to discuss the ongoing project to one of the towers. New antennas, a total of three, are being added as well as six radios being swapped out with new models and a hybrid cable.

Veliz was wondering if these repairs or adjustments will be a benefit for the town and have improved service.

“It should help your service,” said Sabourin.

According to Sabourin, these replacements are better equipment models. The board discussed if a special permit is needed. Since these are only repairs and no major changes to the tower, a special permit is not required. The Planning Board accepted the wireless tower modifications to the equipment.

#### Assistance projects

The Planning Board approved of a regional District Local Technical Assistance Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw Assistance project. This will allow assistance from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to update the town’s necessary dwelling unit portion into the Town’s bylaw.

The Planning Board also approved a DLT technical assistance for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Maintenance and Implementation. This is a grant to help finish the hazard mitigation plan.

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# ★ VETERAN APPRECIATION ★



Karyann oversaw checking people in as We the People Cornhole served over 175 meals.



The crew of We the People Cornhole made over 150 meals for veterans during an appreciation dinner at AMVETS Post 74. The entire crew all together in the AMVETS kitchen.



We the People Cornhole co-president Braden Peyman, with co-president Chris Santaniello standing behind, gave a speech to express gratitude to all the veterans who serve our country and are honored at this appreciation dinner.



Amanda Meli of Amanda Meli Music was in charge of providing patriotic music during the steak tip dinner that veterans got to enjoy this past weekend.

## VETERANS from page 1

What started off as a plan to buy drinks for veterans began to blossom into the idea of offering a delicious meal.

We the People are planning to offer a quarterly event, including a BBQ in the spring.

We the People Cornhole run cornhole every Wednesday at the AMVETS and every other Friday. The non-profit receives a lot of donations from that activity and its nothing but friendly competition taking place in honor of our veterans.

In addition to the steak tip dinner, the event also featured a 50/50 raffle and a basket raffle.

Amanda Meli of Amanda Meli music attended the dinner and provided the music for the occasion.

Many of the prizes that were part of the basket raffle were generously donated by local businesses, supporters and the sponsors of the event.

Braden Peyman and Chris Santaniello are the co-presidents of We the People Cornhole and are proud to offer this dinner for the veterans and active military members. Santaniello was happy to see a great turnout for this dinner and it expressed a lot of "overwhelming love and support."

Peyman said, "seeing all these people together is unimaginable" and he hopes to see more people at the next dinner.

Cassie Peyman of We the People Cornhole was grateful for the first dinner they ever hosted. In their eyes, the amount of support from the community has been nothing but positive.

"It's nice to see the veterans arrive and being honored," she said.

Sponsors for the event include Timothy and Cynthia Dugas, owners of the Clam Box and Howard's Drive In; Canna Retreat Dispensary; B'Leaf Wellness Centre; A Eagle Gutters; and Amanda Meli Music.

Veteran Ron LaBarre of Palmer attended the apprecia-

tion dinner and expressed his gratitude for the dinner and for the veteran support bags that were put together by J Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc and various businesses and donors. LaBarre grabbed two support bags for his two friends who are also veterans.

LaBarre is also a member of the AMVETS Post and said he "appreciates this event very much."

Members of We the People Cornhole worked hard to put the meals together and made about 200 meals. The Peymans along with Santaniello mentioned they served over 175 meals in an hour.

Braden Peyman went up to the stage in the dining hall for an announcement and began by expressing We the People Cornhole's gratitude for all the support they got in making this dinner a success.

Peyman also thanked the AMVETS for giving them the space to host the appreciation dinner. His speech then expressed the gratitude the community has for all the veterans who have served and continue to serve our country.

Peyman's speech would end by asking all the veterans in attendance to stand proudly as the whole venue gave them a round of applause. After dinner, the winners of the 50/50 raffle and basket raffles were announced.



A basket raffle took place at the dinner, with dozens of prizes generously donated.



The appreciation dinner had a successful turnout as guests honored their veterans and active military members at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers.



The line was moving into the kitchen where veterans and guests got to receive their steak tip dinner.



The banquet hall at AMVETS Post 74 was full as many veterans enjoyed a free meal and guests came to enjoy the meal and honor them for their service.



We the People Cornhole was established in 2024 and hosted their first appreciation dinner for veterans this past weekend. We the People Cornhole play cornhole on a weekly basis at AMVETS Post 74.



All the veterans stood up and received a round of applause from the gallery during the appreciation dinner.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

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# WINTER STORM BRINGS SNOW AND FRIGID TEMPERATURES



The Ware River is viewed through the wooden supports of the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge. Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

## MARKET from page 1

headquartered in Rhode Island, but most of its products are made in China.

Well B&D Enterprises makes all of its pens one town over in Ware. Bernie does the work with assistance from Debby Morisseau, a Chicopee native who is his wife.

If the newly elected chief executive of this great nation wants a pen made in this country, he need only come to the West Brookfield Winter Market.

It is not merely in producing writing implements that Bernie displays his artistry.

On the B&D Enterprises table was an array of useful items beside the pens. There were scoops, bottle openers, trowels, carry alls, salt and pepper grinders and new this year, holders for the pens.

So come and see his handiwork through this market season and when it's over, we can start wondering what he will come up with next year.

B&D Enterprises' business card bears the legend:

*Re-Purposed Materials  
Into  
Re-Markable Keepsakes*

New this year, up from the Mill Building in Fiskdale, is Deep Roots Distillery USA. You might be asking what is an outfit that ferments and distills alcohol doing at the farmers market up in West Brookfield?

Well, Deep Roots does do that and they are rather fond of the work of making such beverages, but the young establishment is not a one trick pony.

At the market on Wednesday was Keith, a co-owner, and Adam, the chef. On their table was displayed a range of comestibles, all looking mouthwatering.

There were fresh baguettes, Savory Pies, Lemon Poppy Cake and much more.

Last week, there was a promise that hot soup would appear and, this week, a creamy tomato soup was being served with pieces of fresh bread added.

Though no alcohol was at the market, they do produce a variety of beverages such as vodka, whiskey, gin and liqueurs



Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises is shown at the Winter Market with some of his quality merchandise.

that are all natural. They are proud of the apple pie whiskey made with corn from Valley Malt and apple cider from the Greenfield or Brookfield orchards.

How does one get into a business that is more associated with other locales? According to Keith, the project began during COVID. Well, didn't a lot of projects happen then in those long-ago seeming days?

The team was happy to share what's coming down at the Mill Building. They are planning a Valentine's Day Dinner. Also, a Korean dinner, with help from the Korean Market in the Mill Building, is coming as is a Murder Mystery themed evening.

It's a busy enterprise, but you can experience some of it at the Winter Market.

So, give yourself a break on Wednesdays and come to church across from the Common through March 12.




These pens and holders, made by Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises are new for 2025.




The Deep Roots team is at the Winter Market on Wednesdays. Shown are Chef Adam and Keith.



Deep Roots provides a variety of fresh baked goods. Turley Photos by Richard Murphy





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# SPORTS

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## Ware moves into first place with win over Franklin Tech

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Sole possession of first place in the Franklin South Division standings was at stake entering the first meeting of the regular season between the Franklin Tech and the Ware girls' basketball teams.

The Lady Indians moved into first place in the league standings after outscoring the Eagles, 38-15 over the final three quarters enroute to a 44-26 victory at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium, last Monday night (Jan. 13).

"Every game that you play is important, but whenever you have a chance to take over first place in the league standings and your team plays well in that game, it's really satisfying," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We struggled offensively at times, but we did play very well defensively in tonight's game. We held them scoreless in the second quarter, which allowed us to get our offense going. This was a huge win and I'm very proud of my players. Everyone gets along with each other very well and they always work very hard."

Ware, who played a home game for the first time in 2025, had a 6-3 overall record and a perfect 4-0



Amelia Orszulak, with eyes scanning for a midcourt opening, readies to pass.



Gloria Cotaj drives through the Falcon defense.



Reese McKeever destroys this defensive brigade during action last week.



Madisyn Slattery runs the sideline looking for an open teammate.

league mark following their fourth consecutive victory.

"This was our biggest win so far this season," said Ware sophomore forward Reese McKeever. "The home crowd really helped us a lot, especially whenever we were making our runs."

McKeever scored eight points in each half leading to her game-high 16 points. She has reached double digits in eight of the Lady Indians

first nine games of the regular season.

"Reese is a very good teammate," said Ware junior guard Madi Slattery, who finished the home game with five points. "She always tries her hardest in every game that she plays."

The Lady Indians, who finished tied for third place in the league

Please see **WARE**, page 11



Jacoby Labillois and Hart Waz attack the opposing offense.



Reilly Comptois thwarts the double defense at mid court.

## Cougars win three of last four

WARREN – After a tough start to the regular season, Quaboag boys basketball team is starting to put together a few wins. Quaboag picked up a win over Blackstone Valley 56-49, then also had wins over Advanced Math & Sciences and then also defeated University Park last Wednesday 56-38. The Cougars are now 4-7 on the season.



Christian Ruiz gets off a smooth pass.



Kadin Dufault scans his offense as he brings the ball down court.



Abby Rogowski fields the rebound.



Brooke Austin gets the close range shot.



Mia Ducos heads for the right side to make a pass.

## Pioneers suffer road loss at Ludlow

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Because his basketball team has had the tendency to get off to a slow start this season, Ludlow boys' varsity coach C.W. Zimmer held a shootaround prior to last Friday night's game against Pathfinder Tech.

The strategy didn't end up working out very well as Ludlow trailed by as many as six points in the first quarter.

However, the Lions outscored the Pioneers, 49-18, during the final three quarters of the Tri-County crossover game leading to a 58-30 victory before a large crowd at Mullins Gymnasium.

"We held a shootaround for the first time this season hoping that we would get off to a faster start in the first quarter," Zimmer said. "Once again, we fell behind early in the game, but we were able to make a comeback this time. We made a few 3-pointers and played very well defensively."

Overall, the Lions made a total of eleven 3-pointers in their second home victory of the regular season.

Ludlow junior co-captain Jackson Mateus made a total of six 3-pointers leading to his game-high 23 points. Junior Cameron Lyman added three 3-pointers in the second quarter for his nine points.

"We knew that Ludlow had a couple of very good shooters, but our game plan was to stop their fastbreak offense," said first-year Pathfinder head coach Ethan Ortyl. "They did hit some 3-pointers, and we tried to adjust our defense."



Grayson Griswold tries to maneuver around his opponent.



Brody Wetnicka makes his way down the court.

## Panthers fall at home to Littleton



Christian Dunn starts her way down the court.

BARRE – It was a pair of setbacks last week against Littleton and Hudson. The Panthers girls basketball team lost at home against Littleton last Tuesday 34-27. Later in the week, the Panthers fell on the road at Hudson High School. The Panthers are now 4-7 on the regular season and faced Clinton earlier this week. Quabbin travels to Maynard on Friday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.



Makaylah Kingsbury tries to get around her opponent.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Dustyn Cook takes a free throw.

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports



Megan Clark takes the long jump shot.



Taylor Allen is pressured near the arc.



Desiree Croteau attempts to shoot ahead of defensive pressure.

## Pioneers continue to impress with 8-1 record



PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball scored two more wins and are now 8-1 on the season. Last Monday night, the Pioneers defeated Sci-Tech 49-38. Greenly Lagimoniere had 14 points to lead the team. She was followed by Taylor Allen with 13 points, and Megan Clark with 11 points. The Pioneers would then defeat Westfield Tech 50-17 last Thursday. Coming up, the Pioneers will face Smith Academy Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

LEFT: Ciara Green sends a pass toward the corner.



RIGHT: Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.

## Thompson Speedway to feature 10 events

THOMPSON, Conn. – After weeks of careful planning, the American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) have finalized and released the 2025 schedule for Thompson Speedway. Beginning in late March through Columbus Day weekend in October, rolling thunder returns to the ‘Quiet Corner of Connecticut’ for ten individual dates in 2025 including the annual Icebreaker and Sunoco World Series weekends along with a return to monthly Wednesday night racing.

Everything begins on Saturday, March 29 with the first of two days celebrating the 51st Icebreaker weekend to kick off the 2025 New England racing season! Saturday is headlined by the return of the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series for the first of two spectacular showings on the Thompson highbanks in 2025 plus the PASS Super Late Models, Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and R&R Race Parts NH Open Street Stock Series! Saturday’s showcase also kicks off the 2025 track championship season for the Sunoco

Modifieds and Mini Stocks plus the introduction of Thompson Speedway’s newest division, the Thunderstock Crown Vic Division!

Sunday, March 30 is headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 plus the second Sunoco Modified event of Icebreaker weekend along with the Thompson Late Models, Street Stocks and SK Light Modifieds for a spectacular closer to the season’s rip-roaring start!

The Monaco Modifieds return to headline the first Wednesday night action on May 14, complete with all six Thompson track championship divisions before the fan-favorite Dash for Cash Series returns for the first of three Wednesday Night programs on June 18, complete with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and six Thompson divisions. The Dash for Cash 50 lap sprints will also return with the NEMA Lite special on July 9, the Wednesday, September 17 showdown and the Friday of Sunoco World Series weekend.

The NASCAR Whelen

Modified Tour is back for their traditional midweek show-down on August 6 headlined alongside the New England Supermodified Series and six Thompson Speedway divisions for a thrilling midweek special that cannot be missed!

The 63rd Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing begins on Friday, October 10 headlined by the Dash for Cash \$5,000 to win sprint plus the R&R Open Street Stocks and Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) alongside track championship finales for the Late Models and Mini Stocks. The Thunderstock Crown Vics will also run on both Friday and Saturday of World Series weekend.

Saturday afternoon is headlined by the incredible 75th annual Race of Champions 150 held for the first time at Thompson Speedway with a \$12,500 prize headed for the winner of the iconic Al Gerber Memorial trophy! Saturday also features the championship finale for the New England Supermodified Series, along with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck

Challenge and Harry Kourafas Memorial 22 for the New England Pro-4 Modifieds. The Sunoco Modifieds will compete in their first of two days during the Sunoco World Series and the SK Light Modifieds will crown their 2025 track champion.

Sunday, October 12 will feature the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Sunoco World Series 150 with the Sunoco Modifieds and Street Stocks crowning their track champions with the NEMA Lites rounding out the season-closing program.

“We’ve built up a schedule we think works for everyone,” said PASS President Tom Mayberry. “There’s a little bit of everything for each event that we believe works for both fans and racers alike.”


“Both Tom and I have had quite a few conversations with competitors and 2025 looks promising,” said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. “The return of the Dash for Cash races and expanding the Crown Vic races are something we’re looking forward to seeing grow at Thompson next season.”

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month

### AMELIA ORSZULAK WARE HIGH SCHOOL



Orszulak came off the bench for Ware and scored 12 points in a big win over Franklin Tech on Jan. 13.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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## Railers grab point in OT loss

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers beat the Wheeling Nailers, 3-4 in overtime, Sunday afternoon at the DCU Center.

Not a typo, no. It is just that all things considered, the point Worcester earned was one of the best points a Railers team will ever get out of a hockey game.

They trailed the best team in the league, 3-1, with less than five minutes to go in the third period. Then, at 15:23, Jordan Kaplan converted a shorthanded breakaway to make it a one-goal game.

With goaltender Hugo Ollas on the bench, Worcester took it down to the limit and Anthony Repaci scored with four seconds to go in regulation. He converted a pass from Griffin Loughran and beat Taylor Gauthier from the bottom of the right circle with a low shot.

It was the latest game-tying goal in franchise history.

“I actually thought we had a lot more time than we did,” Repaci said, “maybe something like 20 seconds. That was cutting it close but it was an exciting finish.”

Yes, you might say that. That Matt Koopman scored for Wheeling to win it just 49 seconds into overtime was a downer, but it did not ruin the day, all things considered.

Even before the opening puck drop the Railers were in a hole.

It was their third game in less than 72 hours, and it was against the team with the best winning percentage in the ECHL. Two of their defensemen, Matias Rajaniemi and Cam McDonald, were called up by Bridgeport before the game. Worcester replaced them with one defenseman, Anthony Hora up from the SPHL and making his ECHL debut. So the Railers dressed only 17 skaters.

With McDonald and Rajaniemi in the American Hockey League, there were no

Bridgeport contract players in uniform. The only NHL contract player was goalie Hugo Ollas. He is assigned here by the Rangers.

Worcester responded with a great effort from the start although it took a while for everything to fall into place.

“For us playing a three in three, with the effort they put out, I just wanted them to play to the wire,” coach Nick Tuzzolino said. “If the score had stayed 3-1 I probably would have been just as happy. I thought they played well. That’s a pretty gutsy effort against a really good team.”

Over the last two weekends Worcester took six of a possible eight points versus Wheeling. The Railers extended their overall points streak to eight games. They are 5-0-3 in those games. It is their longest points streak since they won nine in a row to open the 2022-23 season.

It was 0-0 after 20 minutes. David Jankowski scored for Wheeling at 8:55 of the second period. Cole Donhauser answered for Worcester at 14:26, snapping a 12-game goals drought. Manny De St. Phalie’s goal at 15:48 allowed the Nailers to take a 2-1 lead into the third period.

When Chris Ortiz made it 3-1 at 6:21, it seemed unlikely that the Railers would have enough petroleum in the tank to come back. Kaplan changed that perspective, then Repaci wound up rescuing the point.

It allowed Worcester to earn five of a possible six points on the weekend with all three games ending in 4-3 scores.

The All-Star break is here. It will give the Railers time to rest up from their dramatic weekend, but Tuzzolino isn’t going anywhere.

“I can’t,” he said. “I’ve got to go find some players.”

### PIONEERS from page 9

get to high school. There are 180 kids playing basketball in the youth program this year, which is the most that we’ve ever had. We’re very excited and we want to see that program keep growing.”

The 18-point victory evened Ludlow’s overall record at 5-5. Because they’re not currently ranked in the top 32 in the MIAA power rankings, the Lions will need to win at least five more games this season to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament.

Mateus is the only remaining player from the 2022-23 varsity squad, which lost at Norwood in a Division 2 preliminary round game.

“We need to win five of our remaining ten games to qualify for the state tournament,” said Mateus, who reached double digits in scoring for the ninth time this season. “We’re a pretty good basketball team this year and I think we can do that.”

Mateus is one of the nine juniors listed on the Lions varsity basketball roster. They also have three sophomores and no seniors.



Jordan Mbi tries get around a Ludlow guard.

Ludlow junior Filipe Fernandes scored seven points off the bench and sophomore co-captain Ethan Love chipped in with six points. The trio of junior Tyler Tatro, sophomore Jadiel Rodriguez, and

sophomore Kobe McKay finished the game with three points, while junior Spencer Huntley added two points.

Ortyl is a history teacher at Pathfinder Tech and he’s also been



Cassian Kowalik looks for the layup.

a chemistry teacher on the basketball court so far this winter. He has tried several different starting com-

binations trying to see which one works the best.

“On the bus ride over here, I was thinking about how many different starting line-ups that we’ve had this season,” Ortyl said. “We’ve tried a lot of different matchups trying to see which one works the best for us.”

The Lions raced out to an early 4-0 lead as Tatro made a pair of free throws and Love followed with a lay-up.

The Pioneers then reeled off the next ten points.

Sophomore Brody Wetnicka (4 points), who made his first start in a varsity game, made a lay-up with seven minutes left in the first quarter which were his first varsity points. Junior co-captain Aiden Girard (8 points) buried back-to-back 3-pointers before making a put-back hoop giving his team a 10-4 lead with 3:25 left in the opening quarter.

Pathfinder Tech’s other co-captain is senior Matt Vanasse, who didn’t score any points. He’s also the only senior listed on the Pioneers varsity roster.

The visitors from Palmer only

scored four more points during the rest of the first half.

The Lions, who were trailing, 12-9, at the end of the opening quarter, retook the lead at 15-12 with 6:42 left after Mateus knocked down two 3-pointers from the left side.

At the end of the first half, Lyman made his three 3-pointers and Fernandez added two free throws, which sent the home team into the locker room holding a 28-14 lead.

Pathfinder Tech’s only points of the second quarter was a lay-up from freshman Jordan Mbi (2 points).

Ludlow added seven points to its lead in the third quarter, as they outscored Pathfinder Tech, 14-7.

Pathfinder Tech freshman Cassian Kowalik came off the bench and scored his team-leading 10 points, after halftime.

The Lions, who entered the final eight minutes holding a 42-21 advantage, made four more 3-pointers and they continued to pull away.

# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – It's a new year for the Bogey Doubles league on Monday nights and a new round has begun.

The second round of the league was won by the team of Dave Rando and Duncan MacDougall. The team put up a total of 46 winning points to take the second round of the season. Close behind Rando & MacDougall in second place was the team of Lonny Murphy & Trever Kennesson with 42 points.

After the first two matches of 2025, the team of Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine are in first place with 14 wins. The team of Jack Talamini & Bill Gravel are in second place with 12 wins. Erik Pellett & Jim Nester are in third place with 10 wins.

During the second match on Jan. 13, Pellett & Nester bowled against Steve Renaud Sr. & Tina Ward. In game one, Pellett & Nester were victorious 265-239. In game two, Renaud & Ward were the winners by a score of 277-251. Renaud Sr. had a 119 to go with Ward's 115.

In game three, Pellett & Nester won the last game 278-253. Nester's final game was 128 to get the victory in the third game. The final score was 794-769 in favor of Pellett & Nester.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Rando & MacDougall. The first game was won by Rando & MacDougall 289-263. Rando began the match with a 117 to go with MacDougall's 111.

In game two, Mondor & Brayton won 255-240 to make the match close going into game three. Rando & MacDougall won the

final game 286-253. MacDougall scored 114 for a series of 320 and Rando finished with 111 for a 312. Final score was 815-771 in favor of the winners of round two.

Clauson & Santora bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won 281-270. Talamini & Gravel won the second game 287-249. Bill Gravel bowled a 118 after starting with a 115.

The third game was close, but Clauson & Santora won by a score 251-248. Gravel finished with 100 and a series of 333. Talamini & Gravel won total pinfall by a final score of 816-770.

Sandman & Marvin bowled against Murphy & Kennesson. Trever Kennesson won the game for his team, 273-240, by scoring 125 in game one. The team of Travis Sandman & Luke Marvin won the second game 262-256. The team won the last game 265-246 but it wasn't enough to take total pinfall. Travis Sandman finished with 118 and Kennesson had a series of 341 (125, 112, and 104) to earn four points for his team. The final score was Murphy & Kennesson defeating Sandman & Marvin 775-767.

Halbedel & Fontaine bowled against Gauthier & Clough on Jan. 13. In game one, Gauthier & Clough edged out Halbedel & Fontaine by just one point, 278-277. Aaron Fontaine began the match with 138 in a losing effort as Gauthier & Clough held on to the lead with scores of 111 and 118.

In game two, Fontaine & Halbedel claimed the lead by winning 271-236. Fontaine scored 123 and Aaron Halbedel scored 115.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won the last game 274-242 to get a total of six points. Fontaine scored 135 in game three for a series of 396. The final score was 822-756 in favor of Halbedel & Fontaine.

# T-Birds get win at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (17-15-2-1) had six players record multiple points in a 6-4 triumph over the Bridgeport Islanders (8-25-2-2) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena.

The T-Birds and Islanders' netminders had all the answers in the opening 20 minutes, as Colten Ellis picked up where he left off from his shutout performance on Wednesday with 10 more stops in the opening frame. In the Bridgeport net, Hunter Miska made his first AHL start in nearly three years and was up to every Springfield challenge with 11 first-period stops.

The night marked the much-anticipated debut of Blues' 2023 first-round pick Otto Stenberg, and the 19-year-old wasted little time in period two making his mark on the game, taking a drop feed from Hugh McGing in the left circle and roofing a wrist short-side on Miska for his first AHL goal on his first shot at 2:43. Unfortunately, the excitement

of Stenberg's opening tally was quickly tempered when Chris Terry evened the slate with a power play goal at 3:29 for Bridgeport, snapping Ellis's shut-out streak of over 83 minutes.

The T-Birds returned fire at 8:56 when Hunter Skinner leaned into a one-time slapper off a Matthew Peca drop pass, beating Miska over the stick hand to give Springfield a 2-1 advantage.

Once again, however, the Islander power play had a rebuttal. This time, a Samuel Bolduc point wriester eluded Ellis and got the game back even, 2-2, at 13:50.

Springfield continued to be just a tick faster than the Islanders in the see-saw second frame as Stenberg let a wrist fly from the left side at 15:45, creating a rebound for McGing to bury behind Miska and restore the T-Birds' lead.

Finally, the Islanders could not get the game back to a stalemate, and Alek Kaskimaki lifted a backhand under the crossbar on a net-crashing play up the left side

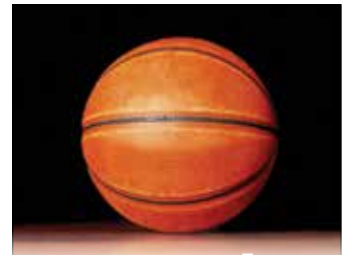
at 19:20 to send Springfield to the second intermission dressing room ahead 4-2.

Bridgeport still did not keel over, and with the teams skating 4-on-4 in the opening minute of the third, Liam Foudy capitalized on a rebound outside the paint to make it a 4-3 contest.

MacKenzie MacEachern further bolstered the Springfield advantage when he picked the puck off from Bolduc and cruised in on Miska before beating the netminder glove side on a break-away to make it a 5-3 game at 7:33.

McGing capped off his best night of the season with his second goal of the evening in the dying seconds of a power play at 11:13 of the third to up the lead to 6-3.

Eetu Liukas would get one back for the Islanders with 1:03 to play, but it was too late for the home team as Springfield cashed in its fourth straight win and second in four nights over Bridgeport.



## Fire vs. Police basketball game Jan. 24 at Ware High

WARE – The Fire Department and Police Department will face off on the court for the annual basketball game in the Ware High School gym on Friday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$5 at the door and all proceeds will benefit the Class of 2026.

There will be a 50/50 raffle, food and beverages. A half time show will be performed by dancers from Limelight Dance Center.

### WARE from page 9

standings with Putnam a year ago, are hoping to put a league championship banner on the gymnasium wall for the first time since the 2019-20 season. Their first three league victories of this season were against Athol (40-14), Pioneer Valley Regional (51-28), and Mohawk (37-22). Putnam didn't have enough players to form a team this year.

Before the start of the regular season, not very many people expected the Lady Indians to be sitting in first place in the league standings all by themselves in the middle of January.

"It just feels incredible," said McKeever, who has been playing for the varsity basketball team since she was in the seventh grade. "We've graduated some key players and we've been in the process of rebuilding our team during the past couple of years. Nobody really expected us to be in this situation coming into this season."

McKeever was aided offensively by freshman forward Amelia Orszulak, who came off the bench to score 12 points. She scored a career high 14 points in the road

win at Pioneer Valley Regional ten days earlier.

The Ware High gymnasium is named in honor of Amelia's grandfather, who was the Ware Athletic Director for 30 years. He was also inducted in the inaugural class of the Ware High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Her uncle has been coaching the Lady Indians varsity basketball team for the past eight years. Her brother, Alex, is a junior member of the Indians boys' varsity basketball.

The Eagles (6-5, 3-1), who didn't have very much trouble sweeping the season series against the Lady Indians a year ago, have captured the league title during the past three seasons. It was their first loss to a league opponent since they lost twice to Turners Falls during the 2021-22 season.

Senior guard Hannah Gilbert recently became the fourth Franklin Tech girls' basketball player to score 1,000 career points. She scored all five of her points against Ware during the first quarter.

She made a lay-up and three foul shots, as Ware senior guard Shelby Hogan did an outstanding job guarding her.

"Shelby is a very quick defender and she's a smart basketball player," coach Orszulak said. "We always put her on the opposing team's leading scorer."

Hogan is also a tri-captain, along with classmates Kyla Campbell and Tory Finocchio.

Ware was trailing, 11-6, entering the second quarter. Their deficit could've been a little bit larger, but the visiting team only made five of their ten free throw attempts in the first quarter.

The Lady Indians only points of the opening quarter were two inside hoops by McKeever and Orszulak's two made free throws.

With 5:47 left in the first half, eighth grade guard Gloria Cotaj (4 points) sank two more foul shots closing the gap to 11-8.

Following a Campbell steal, an Orszulak set shot from the right side of the key gave Ware the lead for the first time at 12-11 with 2:30 remaining in the first half.

Campbell made another steal leading to a lay-up, which was her only field goal of the contest.

McKeever closed out the first half with an inside hoop after receiving a pass from Slattery giving the home team a 19-11 half-

time lead.

The Lady Indians added ten points to their lead during the third stanza, as they outscored the Eagles, 16-6.

"I thought we played very well during the second and third quarters," coach Orszulak said. "We just need to continue playing well the rest of the season."

Hogan (4 points) kicked off the second half by sinking a 3-pointer from the left side.

Campbell (3 points) made a free throw increasing the Lady Indians lead to twenty points (35-15) with 2:24 left in the third quarter.

Early in the final quarter, an Orszulak 3-pointer and back to back inside baskets by McKeever gave Ware their largest lead of the ballgame at 42-17.

The Eagles, who didn't have any double digit scorers, finished the contest with a 9-2 run, but they couldn't get any closer than 18 points.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place at Franklin Tech on February 6.



# Free Girl Scout event offered on Jan. 29

PALMER – Palmer and Ware area girls are invited to a free Girl Scout event, "Embrace Possibility" on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St.

Girls and their guardians will sample Girl Scout badge projects, and take home their first Girl Scout patch. Girl Scout troops will

be selling Girl Scout Cookies and answering any questions.

Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form a new leadership team (three-four volunteers) so that the troop responsibilities are fun and can be shared. No previous Girl Scout

experience is necessary.

This event is for girls entering grades kindergarten and one, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Jan. 25 by visiting https://go.gscwm.org/EmbracePalmer.

For information contact Angiee by email at Arodriguez@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602 extension 4028.

### AUTHOR from page 1

lished in several books. His short stories "Invasive Species", "Escape and Transform", and "Wraith and Specter" are featured in Lenses. His story "Tapping at the Door" is featured in the eight issue of Adventures and "Read Until You Sleep" is featured in the children's collection book Creative Gems.

Payne's writing is never focused on a particular genre. He has written stories that are designed for all ages. According to Payne, his story ideas vary depending on the day, time and place.

One of his published works that Payne considers on of his favorite stories to write was "Wraith and Specter", which is a science fiction story.

Payne also enjoyed writing "Flash" and was the very story he chose to read out loud during his visit at Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick.

"Writing is my passion" is what Payne shared with his guests and though "life can get in the way" he found his way back into writing more often.

Payne also participates in a Twitch Writers Network where he connects with fellow writers during the week and shares ideas. The network features over 700 authors who come from all walks of life and Payne shares his writing journey with them when he is on the stream.

One of the big goals Payne accomplished back in 2022 was



David Payne signed some copies of his new book for his audience at the Paige Memorial Library.

writing one million words.

Payne also enjoys playing a variety of games, virtual or in person. One of his favorite games to play is Dwarf Fortress as well as rummy, bridge, Magic the Gathering, and Dungeons and Dragons.

His wife Kelly was in attendance during the presentation and mentioned her and David always read to each other. Payne grew up in Holliston and now resides in Douglas.

Many guests who attended Payne's presentation got a chance to ask questions and got signed copies of his book.

Payne mentioned he still sub-

mits his work to publishers and has many new stories in the works. One idea he talked about a lot was a collection of stories featuring dragons.

For more information about Payne and his work, visit his blog at telinartho.wordpress.com. Copies of his new book can be found at books2read.com/u/381AwB.

The Paige Memorial Library is located at 87 Petersham Road and can be reached by emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704. For upcoming events and information visit www.paigelibrary.com.

# QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced its Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night fundraiser.

The event will take place on Friday, March 21 at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will provide 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

"The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to provide a fun filled and inclusive night out for all, while highlighting local businesses who sponsor the grand prizes," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer for the Quaboag Hills

Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber was poised to launch its first bingo event in 2020 until COVID related gathering restrictions caused the Chamber to postpone its plans, which has given us a chance to regroup and put together an even bigger and better event than originally planned."

Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards, bingo dauber, delicious snack platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with pro-

grams and initiatives throughout the year.

### About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.



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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of Jan. 12-21, the Ware Police Department responded to 22 miscellaneous calls, 20 administrative calls, seven traffic violations, 18 emergency 911 calls, six harassments, five motor vehicle accidents, two breaking and enterings, one safety hazard, two trespasses, three animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, Jan. 12**  
2:32 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Dale Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
2:42 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:50 p.m. Weapons/Firearms, West Main Street, Assist Given

**Monday, Jan. 13**  
12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Dispatch Handled  
2:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**  
3:16 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Smith Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued  
10:13 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given  
10:49 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered  
5:52 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
8:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
9:13 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Aspen Street, Dispatch Handled  
9:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
7:51 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled  
7:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Investigated

**Thursday, Jan. 16**  
3:14 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:21 a.m. Outside Fire, Greenwich Plains Road, Extinguished  
9:33 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Assist Given  
5:45 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Pulaski Street, Report Made  
7:11 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made  
7:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated  
9:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Services Rendered

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
5:13 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:35 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Cherry Street, Services Rendered  
9:33 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Malboeuf Road, Dispatch Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
2:05 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Main Street, Advised

**Sunday, Jan. 19**  
2:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:32 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Appears Secure After Check  
2:53 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Webb Court, Services Rendered  
6:16 p.m. Drugs, Webb Court, Investigated  
7:06 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Webb Court, Advised  
8:16 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Webb Court, Advised  
9:02 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Fisherdick Road, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Patrick E. Wagher, 47,

*Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.*

Ware  
OUI-Liquor; Leave Scene of Property Damage  
9:58 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Crescent Street, Dispatch Handled

**Monday, Jan. 20**  
11:29 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Valley View, Complaint Taken Care Of  
12:14 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Meadow Heights Drive, Report Made  
4:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, Aspen Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
7:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Could Not Locate

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
4:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
5:29 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Hillside Village, Dispatch Handled  
5:57 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Hillside Village, Could Not Locate

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 36 building/property checks, 30 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, five traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four motor vehicle accidents, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one harassment, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, Jan. 13**  
9:04 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital  
12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Spoken To  
10:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**  
10:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital  
11:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
2:21 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Mill Street, Services Rendered  
2:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Barre Road, Citation Issued  
2:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled  
4:29 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
10:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
11:01 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Patril Hollow Road, Services Rendered  
2:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Jan. 16**  
8:25 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Report Taken  
11:17 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
3:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Gaudet Road, Transported to Hospital  
5:36 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital  
6:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
11:26 a.m. Assist Citizen,

Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered  
11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
11:41 a.m. Fraud, Main Street, Report Taken  
1:02 p.m. Complaint, Summer Place, Officer Handled

**Sunday, Jan. 19**  
6:18 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
12:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital  
2:13 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Highland Terrace, Spoken To  
6:11 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital  
7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
8:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
9:08 p.m. Harassment, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

## Warren Police Log

During the week of Jan. 4-11, the Warren Police Department responded to 232 building/property checks, 18 community policings, 19 emergency 911 calls, one trespasser/proowler, four threats, four parking issues, one property damage, two fires, one animal bite, one motor vehicle pursuit, one fraud/forgery, two safety concerns, two motor vehicle accidents, nine animal calls and 29 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Saturday, Jan. 4**  
1:34 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital  
11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Arrest(s) Made

**Sunday, Jan. 5**  
1:08 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Citation Issued  
7:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:04 a.m. Threats, Maple Street, Prisoner Bailed  
Arrest: Raymond R. Al-Kalmchy, 30, Worcester  
Leave Scene of Property Damage; Disorderly Conduct; Motor Vehicle, Malicious Damage to c266 §28(a); Threat to Commit Crime  
3:18 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assist  
5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit, Main Street, Report Filed

**Monday, Jan. 6**  
1:39 a.m. Heat/Cold Environmental, Bragg Road, Transported to Hospital  
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning  
12:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
12:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Milton O. Fountain Way, Written

Warning  
1:11 p.m. Property Damage, Presidential Circle, Report Filed  
2:35 p.m. Mutual Aid Fire, County Lane, Mutual Aid Transport  
3:10 p.m. Threats, Main Street, Report Filed  
3:26 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

**Tuesday, Jan. 7**  
7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
7:28 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Old West Warren Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
9:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:30 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Trudeau Drive, Transported to Hospital  
11:55 a.m. Safety Concern, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
12:43 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Maple Street, Investigated  
1:06 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Maple Street, Investigated  
8:09 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed

**Wednesday, Jan. 8**  
12:48 a.m. Animal Bites, Crescent Street, Transported to Hospital  
2:41 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital  
10:34 a.m. Falls, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:36 a.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, East Road, Fire Extinguished  
12:25 p.m. Falls, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
12:33 p.m. Welfare Check, Coy

Hill Road, Investigated  
4:13 p.m. Threats, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

**Thursday, Jan. 9**  
8:19 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
12:23 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Negative Contact  
4:04 p.m. Brush/Wildland Fires, Southbridge Road Extension, Fire Extinguished  
4:30 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital  
7:35 p.m. Welfare Check, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Jan. 10**  
2:47 a.m. Parking Issues, School Street, Citation Issued  
2:59 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Citation Issued  
9:27 a.m. Diabetic, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
11:45 a.m. Trespasser/Prowler, Cronin Road, Officer Took Call  
1:37 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Took Call  
4:18 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, South Street, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, Jan. 11**  
1:43 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Written Warning  
9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
11:14 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
1:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Grove Street, Vehicle Towed  
2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

## State Fire Marshal offers safety tips

Tips to stay warm and safe during cold snap



STOW – With temperatures expected to dip into the teens overnight this week, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine reminds residents to stay warm safely and protect their loved ones from some of the most common home heating fires.

“We’re expecting very cold weather in the nights ahead, and home heating appliances will be working overtime,” said Davine. “Heating equipment is the leading cause of carbon monoxide at home and the second leading cause of residential fires. Whether you’re using gas, oil, solid fuel or space heaters to keep warm, be sure you keep safe, too.”

Davine said there were nearly 6,000 heating fires in Massachusetts from 2019 to 2023. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 139 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$42 million in damage.

In 2023 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at nearly 5,000 non-fire incidents.

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of their home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of the alarms so people know when to replace them: smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after five to 10 years depending on the model.

If the alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when people change their clocks. If it’s time to replace alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand. Select smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

If people have a furnace, water heater or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save money and could save a life.

Always keep a three-foot “circle of safety” around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans or other flammable items near these appliances.

If people smell gas, don’t use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out and call 9-1-1 right away.

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through the Massachusetts home energy assistance program, HEAP. No matter what type of heating equipment people use HEAP may be able to help pay their winter heating bills or maintain their heating system.

All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

If people use a fireplace or a stove that burns wood, pellets or coal always keep the area around it clear for three feet in all directions. This circle of safety should be free of furniture, drapery, rugs, books and papers, fuel and any other flammable items.

To prevent sparks and embers from escaping, use a fireplace screen or keep the stove door closed while burning. Use only dry, seasoned hardwood and don’t use flammable liquids to start the fire. To dispose of ashes, wait until they are cool and shovel them into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside at least 10 feet away from the building.

People should have their chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. Most chimney fires are caused by burning creosote, a tarry substance that builds up as the fireplace, wood stove or pellet stove is used.

If burning creosote, sparks, embers, or hot gases escape through cracks in the flue or chimney, they can cause a fire that spreads to the rest of the structure.

Annual cleaning and inspection can minimize this risk. They

may contact the Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild or Chimney Safety Institute of America to identify reputable local companies.

Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, bedding and anything else that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip and remember that they’re for temporary use. Always turn a space heater off, when people leave the room or go to sleep.

When purchasing a space heater, select one that’s been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over.

Unvented kerosene space heaters and portable propane space heaters are not permitted for residential use in Massachusetts, Davine said: the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning that they pose is too great.

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the “Keep Warm, Keep Safe” tool kit for local fire departments, caregivers, and service providers, on the DFS web site by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/winter-home-heating-safety>.

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## Open burning season now open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1.

Permits will be available online only at [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com). If you are already registered for the site from last year’s open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit.

Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved.

Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.



## Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

## COLLEGE NEWS

### SNHU announces President's and Dean's lists

MANCHESTER, NH – Southern New Hampshire University announces the fall 2024 President's list. Local student making the President's list is Farrah Forkey of Ware.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Local students making Dean's list are: Alexis Lane of Ware and Matthew Wiktor of Hardwick.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

## DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

### Understanding Fish Species at Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Jan. 26 from 2-3 p.m.

Creel surveys are a common technique used by fisheries professionals to better understand waterbody specific catch and harvest trends. Creel data from Quabbin Reservoir were collected at each of the three boat launch areas during the 2024 fishing season.

The presentation will provide updates regarding participation, catch, harvest and species specific trends. These data will be compared to other statewide and waterbody specific creel data collected by MassWildlife and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names

Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into the intriguing story behind a remarkable artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who

played a crucial role in returning it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

### History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m. Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

### Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

### Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing... how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

## Artists needed for Women's History month show

HOLYOKE — All submissions must be submitted by Feb. 7. Wistariahurst Museum is seeking artist submissions for the Third Annual Women's History Month juried art showcase for the month of March.

This year, the theme is Love, in all forms. Love, in all forms, aims for artists to consider how love impacts lives. Love can be painful, a process, joyful, romantic, platonic, a feeling, an object, a memory; love, in all its forms, is beautiful.

Any medium for submission is encouraged. Submissions are open to anyone who identifies as a woman and non-binary artists of any age.

Submissions should include 3 to 4 quality images with information (title, date, medium, and size), an artist statement (approximately 300 words about your art and its relationship to the theme), and an artist bio (approximately 150 words about you as an artist) in one PDF.

Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. All questions are welcome and encouraged.

Five artists will be selected and awarded a \$100 stipend. Submissions are due Feb. 7, please send them to info@wistariahurst.org.

## Can artificial intelligence help me?

By Chris Murphy  
Submitted Article

Artificial intelligence has become a household term, with its influence reaching into nearly every corner of the world.

Maybe you've witnessed the meteoric rise in AI stocks like Nvidia and Open AI. What is the reason that the value of AI companies has skyrocketed? The answer lies in what is the primary focus for businesses: productivity.

Experts compare the introduction of AI to the transformative power of the Industrial Revolution, revolutionizing industries and everyday life. By automating repetitive tasks, analyzing data at unprecedented speeds, AI saves valuable time. This rapid efficiency allows individuals and businesses to focus on innovation and strategy.

At first I thought AI would be a challenge for schools, it seemed it could erode academic integrity and encourage shortcuts over learning. Over time, however, educators and professionals have embraced AI as a transformative tool.

AI has the ability to analyze data and provide personalized feedback. During a recent Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond meeting Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato explained that the Ware Public Schools is working with Khan Academy to develop targeted instructional materials using AI.

I realized that AI might be helpful in many situations. I wanted to explore how AI might be helpful to me.

I have found using AI to be very helpful. In this column, I'm providing a couple examples of how I used AI. I encourage you to go to chatgpt.com and experiment with it after reading this column.

Most people are very familiar with using Google to return facts. So, if you are wondering what the population of Ware is, a Google search will do the trick. On the other hand, AI can do much more! It can analyze, create and try to accomplish what a human brain can do.

If you ever agonize over writing anything – AI can help. AI can help you write persuasively, descriptively and in all other styles. Your quest starts by going to chatgpt.com. The site is free.

It's the most popular AI engine and it even keeps a history of all your queries. The prompt is the key!

Your prompt is what the AI engine will use to provide its output and it should be specific.

For example, imagine you own

a landscaping company and you'd like to send an email to your existing customers letting them know you will also begin offering snow plowing. You might type the prompt: "Compose a 3 paragraph email to my existing customers stating that, in addition to providing landscaping services, I will offer snow plowing services."

The results were spectacular! The paragraphs were compelling and had perfect grammar and spelling – not to mention the results were provided within a few seconds.

As long as I was able to provide a quality prompt, I was rewarded with an excellent response that only needed a little customization.

Another example, and this one uses AI's analytical ability, is to help identify businesses that may be successful in Ware.

You could spend the rest of your life collecting and analyzing data about comparable towns. Why spend your time on that task when the work has already been done for you?

You would be able to spend your precious and limited time on other crucial tasks. The prompt I entered was: Provide a list of 15 businesses that thrive in a New England town with fewer than 20,000 people.

Chatgpt's response is below. I had no idea that the response would include specific examples of businesses in Ware.

Here's a list of 15 types of businesses that thrive in a small New England town with fewer than 20,000 residents:

**Bakery** – A local spot offering fresh bread, pastries, and coffee, like Jana Hayden's "Cupcakes and Confections."

**Diner or Café** – A cozy eatery with home-style meals and a welcoming atmosphere.

**Landscaping Services** – Businesses like Mason Harper's, providing lawn care and beautification for residential and commercial properties.

**General Store** – Selling essentials, groceries, and local goods, often serving as a community hub.

**Real Estate Agency** – Experienced agents like Deb's, connecting buyers and sellers in the area.

**Insurance Agency** – Local and attentive services like Moulton's Insurance in Ware.

**Craft Brewery or Winery** – A gathering spot offering locally brewed beverages with community events.

**Antique Store** – Catering to collectors and those drawn to the charm of vintage items.

Art Studio or Gallery – A creative hub showcasing local artists,

similar to Workshop13.

**Men's Clothing Store** – Specializing in formal wear and alterations, like Nat Falk's with Judy's expertise.

**Florist** – Providing flowers for events, gifts, and home decoration.

**Plumbing and Heating Services** – Essential for home maintenance, especially in colder climates.

**Bookstore** – Selling books, hosting author events, and fostering a love of reading.

**Fitness Studio** – Offering yoga, pilates, or general workout sessions tailored to the community.

**Farmers' Market or Specialty Food Shop** – Selling fresh produce, local meats, and artisanal goods.

I found the results fascinating. I went down the list noting which businesses Ware currently has and those Ware doesn't. I thought that the results might provide a springboard to an entrepreneur or confidence to a yoga instructor considering opening a studio on Main Street.

I gave it further thought and decided to include the fact that a Superstore was located fewer than three miles away in the prompt. I am aware that the presence of a superstore has a profound and negative impact on certain types of businesses such as hardware stores.

This yielded another set of business. I tweaked the prompt again this time including the median household income. Once again, another list of businesses was provided. Some were included in the earlier results, while some made their first appearance on the list.

Although not glamorous, would a pawn shop succeed in Ware?

Since AI is in the early stages, expect further improvements. Expected advancements due to AI include robotics, drug discovery, graphic creation and many others. You might find it fun and productive to experiment with all sorts of prompts.

AI can compose songs, code in all computer languages and write bad jokes. Most importantly, it is the boost in productivity that has business leaders and the investment community excited. Perhaps AI can help you as you encounter problems, need something analyzed or need to create clear written communication. Why not give it a whirl?

Chris Murphy ("Colorblindguy") is a retired high school computer department head and the technology director for the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond. He can be reached at colorblindguy@gmail.com.

## Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new

and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main

St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.



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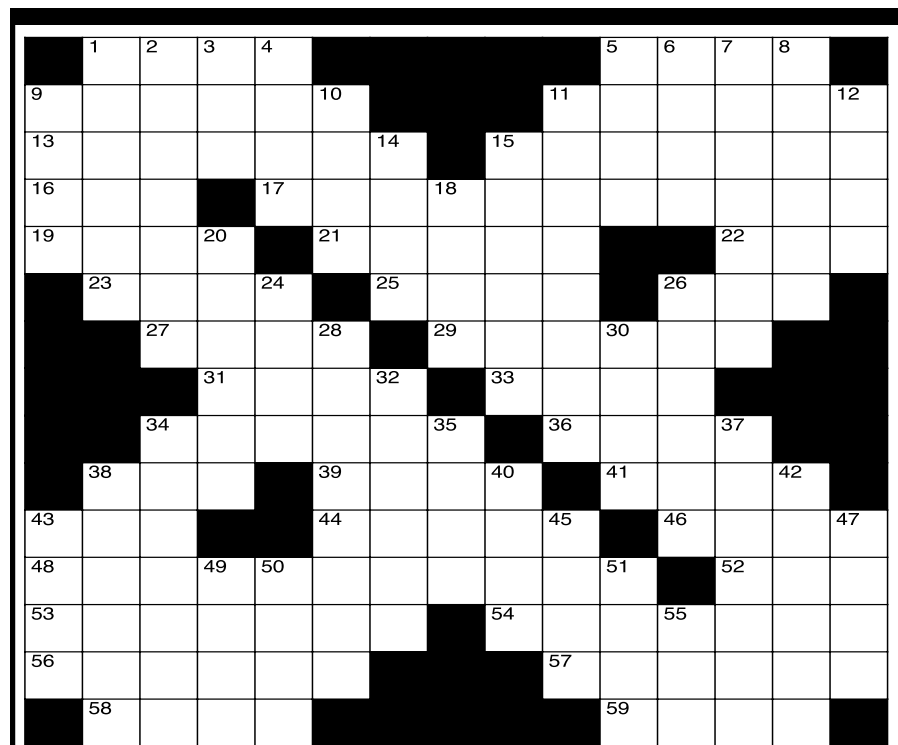
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  21. Related
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  23. Surprise completely
  25. Loon
  26. Canister
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  31. Oil cartel
  33. Palmer and
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  2. Coarse grass
  3. Type of gene
  4. Door handle
  5. Competition
  6. Muslim ruler title
  7. Hunting expeditions
  8. Large mollusk
  9. Bind securely
  10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
  11. 2-point plays in football
  12. Breezed through
  14. Type setting
  15. Felt for
  18. Codified rules
  20. Small dome
  24. Chevrotrain
  26. Male reproductive gland
  28. Controversial beliefs
  30. Z Z Z
  32. One who confines another
  34. Bishop
  35. Garlands
  37. Bird that flies by the coast
  38. Optical device
  40. Greek goddess of discord
  42. Some are "Rolling"
  43. Formerly (archaic)
  45. Thrust a knife into
  47. German river
  49. Atomic #26
  50. Make a grotesque face
  51. Primordial matter of the universe
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More information found at [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/)

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### REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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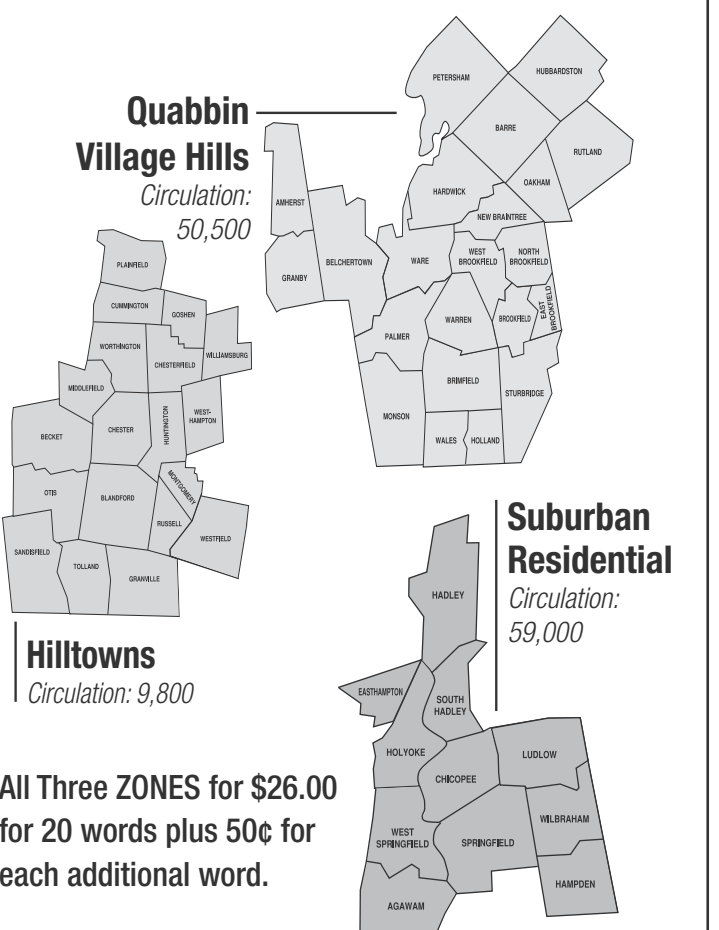
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
  - 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
  - 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.
- Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.
- visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.  
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.  
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# Health grants available to central Mass organizations

WORCESTER – The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts announced the opening of its 2025 Activation Fund grant opportunity, which provides capacity-building support for organizations working to address the community-identified health needs of central Massachusetts residents and workers.

With grants typically ranging between \$60,000 and \$125,000, the Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in central Massachusetts aimed at helping organizations advance to their next level of capacity and effectiveness that can be sustained over time. The deadline for submission of a brief concept paper to express interest is Feb. 28.

Organizations invited to apply will be notified in April so that they can submit full applications; final funding decisions will be made in late June so that projects can launch in July.

“Through the Activation Fund, we seek to offer grants that enable organizations to seize strategic opportunities for growth, address emerging challenges, purchase equipment, or improve facilities, thereby facilitating activities and outcomes beyond the status quo” said Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Over the past 25 years, nearly \$12 million in Activation Fund grants has been awarded to 117 unique organizations with positive and lasting ripple effects on health throughout the region.”

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at [www.thfcm.org](http://www.thfcm.org) to access information on the application guidelines and register for a virtual information session to learn about the

geographic focus and other eligibility requirements, types of support considered, and examples of previous grants.

Examples of 2024 grant recipients include Growing Places, which received a \$110,000 grant for development of a customized IT solution to enhance efficiency and expand its capacity to serve local food consumers, buyers and small farmers in north central Massachusetts, and Quinsigamond Community College, which received a \$125,000 grant to replace outdated dental chairs and equipment stations at its Worcester-based dental clinic that prioritizes underserved patients.

For questions about the application process, please contact Vice President for Programs Jennie Blake at [jblake@thfcm.org](mailto:jblake@thfcm.org) or 508-438-0009 extension 6.

### About the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity.

As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation's grants have totaled over \$59 million to more than 230 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit [www.thfcm.org](http://www.thfcm.org).

# Oliveira sworn in for second term in State Senate

BOSTON – State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Ludlow, D) officially began his second term in the Massachusetts State Senate, taking the oath of office during a formal swearing-in ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Senator Oliveira reaffirmed his commitment to the residents of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District, vowing to continue his work to strengthen communities, advocate for regional equity, and build a brighter future for all in his district.

“It has been my sincere honor and an incredible privilege to serve the people of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District,” said Oliveira. “As we enter this new legislative session, I remain committed to fighting for regional equity for Western Mass and the priorities that matter most to our communities: ensuring access to quality education, addressing the housing crisis, creating pathways for economic opportunity, and safeguarding our environment for future generations.”

First elected in 2022, Oliveira has established himself as a tireless advocate for his district. He joined his colleagues in the Senate to champion key initiatives such as free community college through MassReconnect and Universal School Meals for All.

Oliveira also secured funding



Submitted Photo  
State Sen. Jake Oliveira was sworn in for his second term in the State Senate on Jan. 1, representing the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District.

for investments in local infrastructure and critical support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. During his first term, he also worked to secure

increased funding for public education, strengthen healthcare accessibility, and support local workforce development programs.

Looking ahead, Oliveira plans to build on this momentum by advancing legislation that addresses the unique challenges faced by the district. He emphasized his commitment to working collaboratively with Legislators, community leaders, and constituents to ensure that everyone's voice is heard on Beacon Hill.

“Over the last two years, we've worked collaboratively to secure more than 2 million dollars in additional funds that directly impacted the residents of the district, supporting our veterans, our seniors, and initiatives impacting workforce development, providing mental health services, and growing our region's economy,” said Oliveira.

“The Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District is more than just a collection of communities. It's my home. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent it in the Legislature and for the trust the residents of the district have placed in me by electing me to a second term,” he said.

### About Senator Jake Oliveira

A lifelong resident of Ludlow, he is dedicated to advancing policies that promote equity, opportunity, and sustainability. Before serving in the Senate, Oliveira held leadership roles in local government and education, bringing a deep understanding of the challenges and strengths of his community to his work on Beacon Hill.

# Families needed to host foreign exchange students

World Heritage International Student Exchange Program, a non-profit, public benefit organization, is seeking local families to host foreign exchange students this coming school year.

World Heritage students come from a variety of countries worldwide: Italy, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name just a few.

Students are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience.

Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance.

World Heritage students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from different backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

World Heritage also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

If interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, please call Debra at 1-800-888-9040, visit [www.world-heritage.org](http://www.world-heritage.org) or send an email to [info@world-heritage.org](mailto:info@world-heritage.org) to request more information or start the application process.

Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the relationship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

# Psychic medium night with Gary McKinstry is Feb. 27

STURBRIDGE—Join the Chamber of Central Mass South and guests at The Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge for an inspiring night with Gary McKinstry, the Psychic Medium Entertainer, on Feb. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Internationally known Psychic Medium Entertainer, McKinstry, will share his gift to connect with the spirit world and bring intuitive messages to guests of the Chamber's Medium

Night. McKinstry's work as a psychic medium for over 30 years not only includes clients in the USA, but also Brazil, France, Australia, Germany and Canada. Whether one on one or in a large arena, McKinstry is dedicated to helping people in all walks of life and death and will deliver messages with style.

In this gallery reading, Gary randomly selects individuals from the audience to deliv-

er messages, guided by spirits. Messages may be from the afterlife or pertain to the present. While not everyone gets a reading, all are encouraged to listen as the messages hold collective meaning. A psychic gallery reading elevates the group's consciousness, offering deep and transformative experiences, providing hope and inspiration.

Tickets are \$60 for CMS Chamber members and

their employees, or \$65 for non-Members. Cash bar.

This intimate and enlightening evening with Gary is limited to 100 attendees, so get tickets now.

For Medium Night tickets and information give the Chamber a call at 508-347-2761 or email [info@cmschamber.org](mailto:info@cmschamber.org).

# public notices

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



## Town of Ware Town Hall Change in Business Hours Effective February 01, 2025

### NEW PUBLIC HOURS:

Monday 8am – 4pm

Tuesday 8am – 4pm

Wednesday **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** 8am – 4pm

Thursday 8am – 4pm

Friday 8am – 4pm

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition.

Ware Town Hall

Questions? Call 413-967-9648 x100

Visit: [townofware.com/town\\_directory](http://townofware.com/town_directory)

Taxes can be paid four ways (payable to Town of Ware):

By Mail: Department 3370, PO Box 986500, Boston, MA 02298-6500

Electronically: through your bank or online at

<https://townofwarema.munisselfservice.com/css>

Payment Drop Box: in secure drop box near the main entrance on

West Street, available 24/7/365

In Person: during new public business hours

or with a scheduled appointment

### TOWN OF WARE Public Forum –

Monday,  
February 10, 2025  
at 5:30pm

Public Hearing –

Monday, March 17, 2025  
at 6:30pm

Ware Town Hall

126 Main St., Ware MA

FY 2025 Town of Ware

CDBG Application

The Town of Ware

Community Development

Authority, with Pioneer

Valley Planning

Commission, will conduct

a Public Forum on Monday,

February 10, at 5:30pm and

a Public Hearing on March

17 at 6:30pm at Ware Town

Hall, 126 Main St., Ware,

MA 01082, Attn: Paralee

Smith.

The town is seeking

input on community needs

and projects which would

benefit from grant funding.

Construction of the Cottage

Street Improvements project

is currently being reviewed.

The CDBG application will

also include a request for

funding up to five social

services programs includ-

ing, but not limited to, adult

basic education and GED

preparation, domestic violence

prevention, elder services,

and community health.

The Ware Town Hall is

handicapped accessible.

Persons who require special

accommodation for either public meeting should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. For further information contact Erica Johnson at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or [erjohnson@pvpc.org](mailto:erjohnson@pvpc.org), or Para Smith, Director of Planning & Community Development at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118 or [psmith@townofware.com](mailto:psmith@townofware.com) 01/16, 01/23/2025

### Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST., GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **January 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM** at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 2008 Ford Escape  
Registration#/State: 548WNW/MA  
VIN: IFMCU93118KA28749  
Name and address of owner: Merryl Maleska Wilbur & Nathan L Wilbur  
48 Rose St.  
Chicopee, MA 01020

By: James M. Regin  
Dated: 12/29/2024  
01/16, 01/23, 1/30/2025

### STORAGE AUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren MA on February 8, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

The contents of Joshua Toomey will be auctioned off at **70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA on February 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

The contents of Cynthia Stalter, Stephen Pike, Christopher Flood and Bernadette Carberry will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278. 01/23, 01/30/2025

### Hardwick Planning Board Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30PM** at the **Hardwick Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick, Massachusetts.**

This hearing is regarding amendments to the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw: Sections 1.4 – Definitions; 3.2 - Schedule of Use Regulations; 4.0 – Special Permit Procedures; 5.0 – Site Plan Approval; 6.5 – Common Driveways; 6.8 – Home Occupation; 6.9.2 – Use of Trailers or Self-Contained Motor Home; 9.0 – Solar Energy Facilities and an addition of 11.0 – Battery Storage Systems. Copies of the listed amendments and addition can be found on the Hardwick Town Website [www.Hardwick-MA.gov](http://www.Hardwick-MA.gov) under the Planning Board Tab or at the Municipal Offices at 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA. Interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>

Hardwick Planning Board  
Jenna Garvey, Chair  
01/23, 01/30/2025

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2025.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2025:

Municipality	Treatment Periods
Ware	February 1, 2025 – May 30, 2025
	CST Basal Dormant Stem
	May 30, 2025 – Oct 15, 2025
	Foliar CST Basal Cut Stubble
	Oct 15, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025
	CST Basal Dormant Stem

\*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):  
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid,  
939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.  
Telephone: (781) 290-8310  
or email: [mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com](mailto:mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com)  
01/23/2025

# Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce seeks nominations for 2025 Choice Awards

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2025 Choice Awards.

Award categories include: Community Hero and Educator of the Year, as well as Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year. The Chamber will also be recognizing a member Business and Volunteer of the Year at a special event on May 1 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware honoring this year's recipients.

"We are thrilled for the return of the Chamber's annual Choice Awards event. And to specifically shine a spotlight on the difference making individuals and businesses that help make our communities so special," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce official website, qhmacom from now and until Jan. 31.

While online voting for this year's winners will be conducted from Feb. 1 through March 16.

The criteria for specific categories are:

**Community Hero of the Year** – An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The individual must reside or have performed their act or work with-

in the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

**Educator of the Year** – An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

**Food/Drink Establishment of the Year** – An outstanding local

food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

**Retail Establishment of the Year** – An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

**About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce**

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

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For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

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